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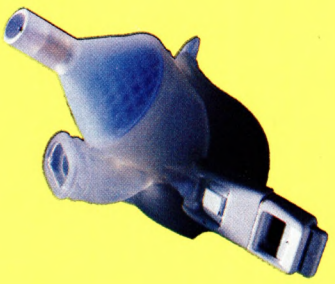
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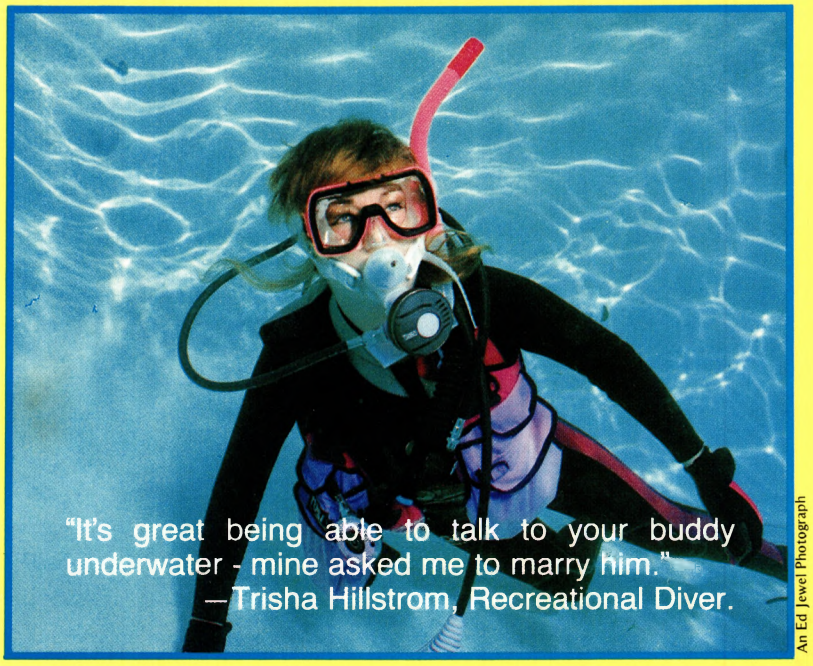
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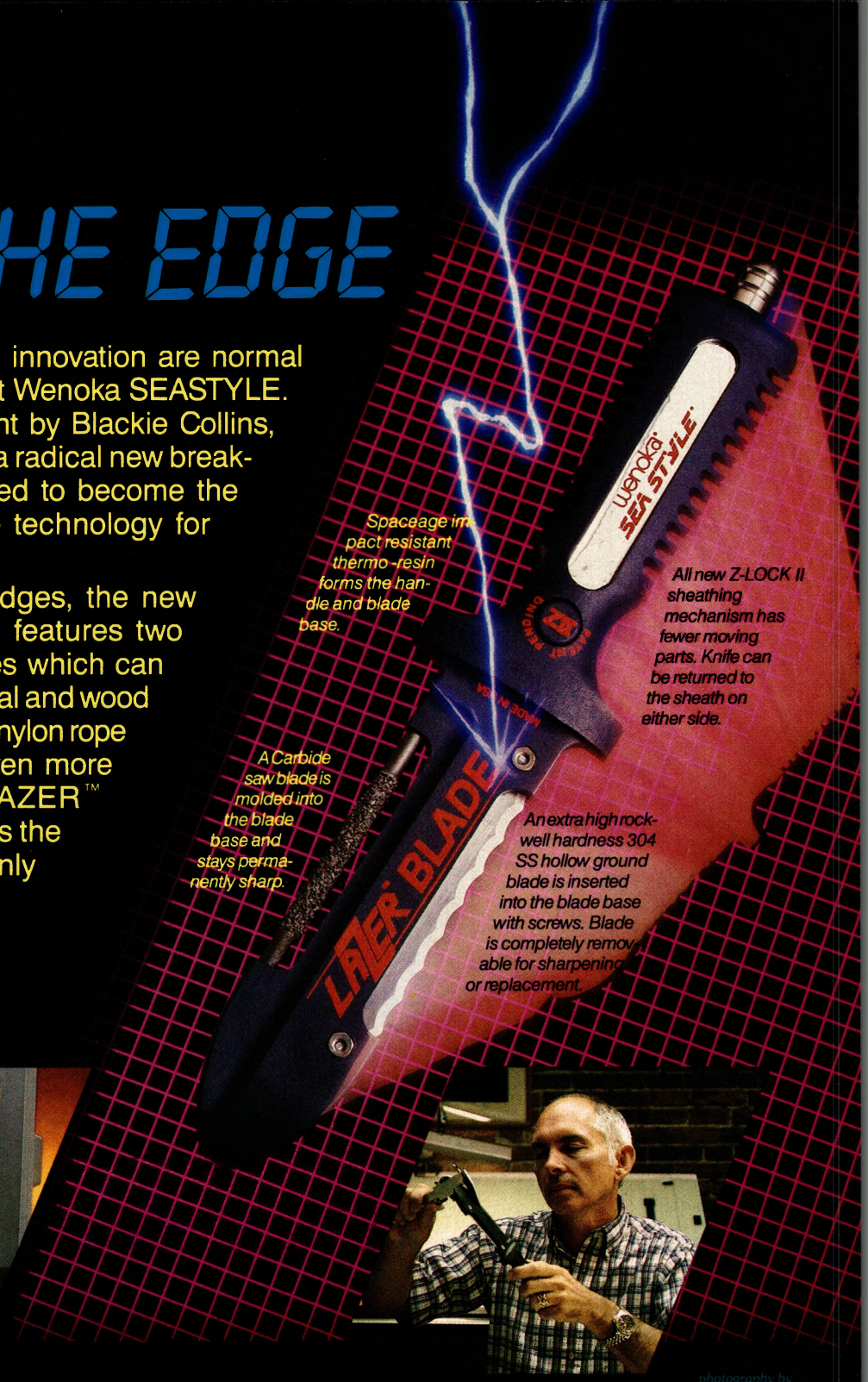
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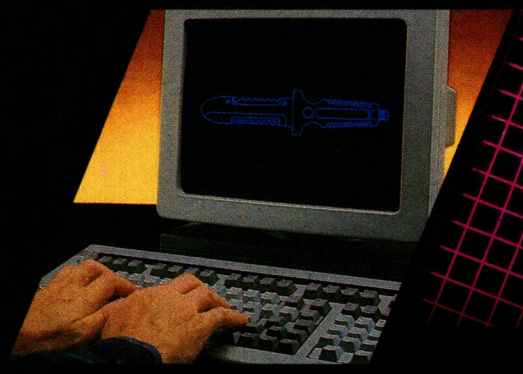


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skin diver

Volume Thirty-seven *Number Three*



Give Guam a shot/Page 136



Down into history/Page 36



Fanning out in Cayman/Page 116

Face up to close-ups/Page 10



PHOTOGRAPHY

10 **SDM'S NIKONOS COURSE** /GERI MURPHY
56 **SDM'S U/W VIDEO COURSE** /JIM AND CATHY CHURCH
176 **SUBATEC S50 STROBE** /GERI MURPHY

LOCAL DIVING

34 **BONNE TERRE** /MARK M. LAWRENCE
59 **FLORIDA DIVE GUIDE** /GREG JOHNSTON
154 **DIVING LOUISIANA'S OILRIGS** /BILL BARADA

ADVENTURE

36 **TITANIC ADVENTURE** /BONNIE J. CARDONE

DIVE EQUIPMENT

47 **DACOR GEAR BAGS** /JIM WALKER
164 **TABATA'S ONE TOUCH KNIFE** /BONNIE J. CARDONE
166 **SEAQUEST SINGLE BAG BC SERIES** /JIM WALKER
178 **PROSUB DX 500 REGULATOR** /ERIC HANAUER

PACIFIC TRAVEL

84 **DIVING NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER** /GERI MURPHY
136 **DATELINE MICRONESIA—GUAM** /GERI MURPHY

CARIBBEAN TRAVEL

85 **BAHAMAS DIVE GUIDE** /STEPHEN FRINK
109 **SUNSET HOUSE** /GERI MURPHY
116 **DON FOSTER'S CONDO-DIVE ALLIANCE** /G.H. NOWAK
124 **DIVI BARBADOS** /RICK FREHSEE
130 **BAYMAN BAY CLUB** /GREG JOHNSTON

COLUMNS

28 **WRECK FACTS**
32 **DIVING MEDICINE**
48 **TECHNIFACTS**
120 **THE HISTORIAN**
175 **SDM'S TRAVEL TIPS**
190 **I LEARNED ABOUT DIVING**

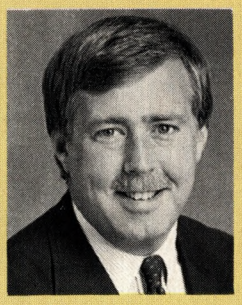
DEPARTMENTS

18 **DIVER'S CALENDAR**
21 **SCUBA QUIZ**
182 **DIVER'S DIRECTORY**
189 **ADVERTISER DIRECTORY**

COVER

Captain Tom Guarino of the Sea Fever *videotapes a trumpetfish at Tuna Alley in the Victory Cays. Bahamas diving offers an extensive variety of exotic marine life encounters. For more see page 85. Photo/Stephen Frink.*

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SDM Editorial

BY BILL GLEASON

The political process governing this land is a marvelous study of the interplay of citizens, special interest groups and leaders. Through our voting rights and our representation in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, we are able to control the destiny of our nation. This process is unbelievably complicated and doesn't ever seem to happen overnight, but it seems to work out in the long run.

SKIN DIVER is extremely concerned about two bills (one in the House, one in the Senate) that, on the surface, seem as if they will preserve historic shipwrecks. We led a fight against S-838 (sponsored by Bill Bradley) and thousands of divers wrote to protest this bill. Apparently, this was not enough to sway the bill's sponsors to change their minds. S-838 was passed in the closing days of the Senate session just before Christmas. It received no headlines, no press, no fanfare. Most citizens, and many divers, know nothing and care little about this bill. But, the plain fact is, S-838 drove in one of the last two nails in a coffin encasing American shipwreck diving.

Oh, the bureaucrats and archaeologists must be clapping their hands in joy. Before divers had a chance to mount an effective campaign, *bang*, the bill was passed in the Senate. Another *bang* in the House of Representatives and state bureaucrats will be able to determine your future in wreck diving.

You see, these bills are really only Trojan horses or the proverbial wolves in sheep's clothing. They are supposedly for the preservation of historic shipwrecks, but that's only one little part of them. In order to preserve a handful of shipwrecks, H.R. 74 gives title to all shipwrecks to the states in whose waters they lie. Each state will determine who dives on what shipwreck in its waters.

"But, not to worry, wreck divers," say the sponsors of the bills. "You won't be affected." The sponsors of the bill assume that all things will go right and each state will act reasonably to control just those few shipwrecks that are historically significant. I think you'd have a better chance of success by lending strangers on the street your lifesavings on their promise to pay you back.

H.R. 74, the bill in the House of Representatives, shows the true inclination of the bureaucrats and archaeologists. The

WHEN THINGS GO RIGHT

soldiers are spilling out of the Trojan horse and the wolves have cast off their sheep's clothing. The bill contains penalties up to $50,000 for anyone violating state laws that don't exist yet. The bureaucrats haven't even figured out exactly what it is that wreck divers will be doing wrong, but they've figured out how much to charge us. Smell a rat? SKIN DIVER does and so does the diving industry!

DEMA, the Diving Equipment Manufacturers Association, representing nearly 100 percent of the dive gear manufacturers in this country, is firmly opposed to this bill. Our teaching associations, PADI, NAUI, SSI and NASDS, are all firmly opposed to the bill. All the dive store owners and charter boat captains I've polled are against this bill!

When things go right, unjust laws such as H.R. 74 do not get passed. To make things go right, we need a concentrated effort by everyone to defeat this bill. Here are some suggestions:

1. *Dive Stores*—get petitions to your local congressmen signed by your customers. Raise hell with your representative; this bill is stealing your business.

2. *Dive Boat Captains*—your business may not exist if this bill is passed! Raise hell with your local congressmen.

3. *Divers*—your vote counts most of all. Start (and sign) petitions against H.R. 74, the Historic Shipwreck Bill.

If things go right, we can defeat this bill. All you need to do is raise hell with your local congressmen: This includes letters, telegrams and phone calls. Say, "I am strongly opposed to H.R. 74; I expect you to fight against it—particularly if you want my vote next November!" Send such a letter or telegram to your congressmen with a copy to Walter B. Jones, U.S. House of Representatives, Room 1334, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-6230. Congressman Jones is the Chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The bill must be passed by this committee to go before the full House of Representatives. If the bill gets out of this committee, it will probably become law. To make things go right, we need to write *now* and defeat the bill in committee. We must raise hell or we will lose our shipwrecks.

Put pressure on your congressmen to let Merchant Marine Committee members (listed in our sidebar) know that hundreds of thousands of divers do not intend to vote for them if they hand over the shipwrecks to the bureaucrats and archaeologists who are behind H.R. 74.

If we all act now, this bill will be defeated and things will go right.

If you want to see what happens when things go wrong, turn the page.

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ATLANTIC ALLIANCE

For information on opposing the shipwreck bill contact:

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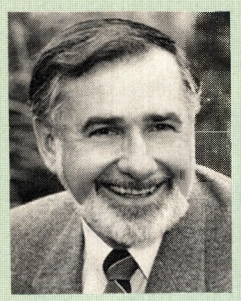
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SDM Editorial

BY PAUL J. TZIMOULIS

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Conservation laws are often a double edged sword. They can be a wonderful tool when used to protect something that is truly precious. They can also be a horrible weapon used to discriminate against a defenseless minority. Such is the case of the shipwreck bill, under consideration in our U.S. Congress. It would give wide sweeping powers to bureaucrats in various government agencies and could very well destroy recreational diving in the U.S.

Skeptical? Let me share with you an incident that recently occurred in California and could end up costing a group of sport divers more than $5 million in lawyers' fees, court costs and fines.

A California dive club chartered the 85 foot *Vision* for a three day wreck diving trip off the coast. Their intended destination was Pt. Pedernales, where seven navy destroyers went aground in 1923. The onshore area is now an air force base, however, and when there is to be a missile launching—as there was that weekend—diving nearby is prohibited.

The group ended up diving several wrecks, including the *Golden Horn* and the *Winfield Scott*, which lie within the boundaries of the Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. This sprawling marine park was originally conceived and established to protect the fragile wildlife and marine life among five Channel Islands.

However, the fine print of the Marine Sanctuary regulations happens to encompass everything on the seafloor, including shipwrecks. And, herein lies a paperback saga of treachery, deceit and political skullduggery.

The *Vision* spent the better part of a day anchored near the *Winfield Scott* because it was in fairly calm waters. The wreck sits in 30 feet of water just off Anacapa Island.

This ship was an ordinary paddlewheel steamer that sank in 1853 while transporting a bunch of miners from Alaska to Panama. Many of the passengers were carrying pokes of gold dust and gold coins, but the bulk of this treasure was recovered in an early salvage effort shortly after the sinking. Later salvors dynamited the wreck, removing almost everything of any value.

Today, the *Winfield Scott* is little more than a pile of disintegrating rubble. There is little more here than a few buried timbers, some bits of copper sheathing, some corroded nails and a coin or two.

Like divers everywhere, those from the *Vision* spent their bottom time exploring the wreck site, taking pictures and fanning the sandy bottom for a few souvenirs. The lucky ones found a nail here, a bit of copper there, and odd looking lumps that invariably turned out to be encrusted rocks. One incredibly lucky diver found a tiny gold coin dated 1843.

No one dreamed he/she was committing a serious crime. These were ordinary law abiding citizens such as yourself, just out for a weekend of diving fun.

Unknown to the divers or the crew, the *Vision* was also carrying spies. You guessed it; two undercover agents from the National Park Service were conducting a sting operation. The law enforcement officers said nothing during the entire trip, thus encouraging the divers to pursue their activities. They even photographed the divers proudly displaying their worthless souvenirs. Is this entrapment or what?

Upon return to the Santa Barbara dock, the dive boat was met by additional agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA), the National Park Service and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. In all, 22 sport divers were arrested and given citations for removing artifacts from a National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. It did not matter that the majority of citations were for worthless junk—these divers had broken the letter of the law (all that fine print stuff).

Each citation carries a possible state fine of up to $1,000 and/or six months in jail. Since removing items from a national park or national marine sanctuary is also a federal offense, there are also the federal courts to deal with and possible fines of up to $50,000 for each count. Some divers received two or three citations—one for each nail or bit of copper sheathing recovered. Yet, fines are only a small part of the cost. Each diver must now retain an attorney to defend his/her rights. Attorneys' fees alone will run $1,500 to $5,000 per diver.

But wait, there's more. Truth Aquatics, owner of the *Vision*, has been told to expect a $75,000 fine and it is possible the dive boat will be confiscated. There has already been an injunction ordered that prohibits the company from taking divers to wreck sites in the National Marine Sanctuary. Roy Hauser, who founded Truth Aquatics, was not even on the boat at the time of this sting, yet the park rangers are trying to shut down his livelihood.

Roy Hauser is one of California's most devoted and courageous divers. In the prime of his life, he suffered a spinal cord bends accident that left him a paraplegic. Despite his handicap, Roy has built one of California's largest and most respected charter dive boat services—operating the *Truth*, the *Conception* and the *Vision*. Roy has always been a leader in marine life conservation, diver safety and shipboard safety for his passengers.

Yet, here we have the ruthless park service attempting to persecute Roy, take away his lifesavings and take away his boat. Nice bunch of guys, don't you think? Can you imagine how much it is going to cost Roy to defend himself and his business?

SKIN DIVER is not attempting to whitewash this situation. There is little doubt these divers did fracture the fine print regulations of the National Marine Sanctuary and such action constitutes a federal offense. We just feel this is a dumb regulation and certainly does not warrant this kind of enthusiastic enforcement.

Here is why: 1) The marine sanctuary was primarily established to protect wildlife, not a bunch of corroded junk metal. 2) If the *Winfield Scott* really had any historic value, why didn't the government salvage the artifacts and place them in a museum for the public to enjoy? 3) The *Winfield Scott* is presently undergoing rapid deterioration and the items recovered today would be pounded into dust in a few more years anyway. 4) The divers did not harm the marine life or environment in any manner. They used their hands to fan the bottom. 5) How can the National Park Service and NOAA afford the luxury of an expensive and time consuming sting operation against a group of innocent taxpayers? Don't they have anything else to do?

(Continued on Page 132)



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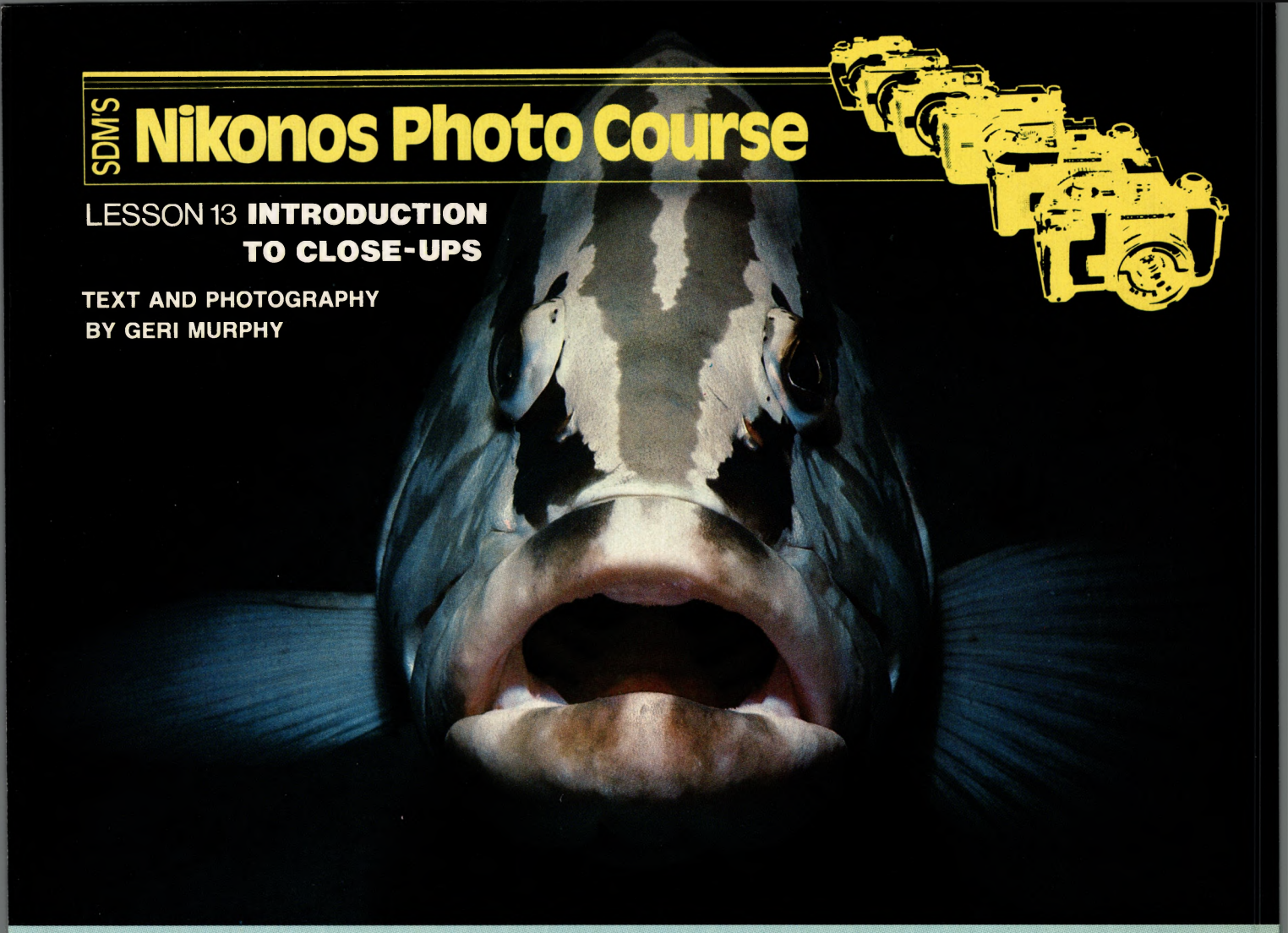
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SDM'S

Nikonos Photo Course

LESSON 13 INTRODUCTION TO CLOSE-UPS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY GERI MURPHY



If you enjoy macro photography, you are going to love close-up. It is the next step in the natural progression of U/W photography skills. Close-up technique can expand your photo library by adding a whole new group of subjects of larger size. Yet, the sharpness of detail and richness of color almost equals macro.

CLOSE-UPS DEFINED

Close-up photography utilizes an auxiliary lens that is placed directly over the primary lens to shorten minimum focus distance. The auxiliary is a magnifier type lens that is designed to optically match the primary lens.

A close-up system allows photography at distances greater than macro, but closer than standard lens limits. For example, the Nikonos Close-Up Kit used with the 35mm lens will have a focus distance of 9.25 inches. Compare this to 2.5 inches minimum focus for a 1:1 macro setup or 33 inches minimum focus for the standard 35mm lens alone.

The Nikonos Close-Up kit produces the same sharpness of detail and rich color as macro. This is because the lens has two ground glass elements optically matched to the primary Nikonos lenses.



Close-up technique can expand your photo library by adding a whole new group of subjects of larger size. It offers a different perspective than macro—sort of a wide angle version of it. As an additional benefit, close-up systems can be removed underwater, allowing use of the primary lens. Top: A head-on close-up of a Nassau grouper. Above: A diver takes a close-up photo of a file shell as it begins to open.

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Of course underwater photography is a subjective art form that is based on technical skills. You will want to expand your knowledge and improve your skills. Nikon introduces NIKONOS TECHNIQUE magazine—an educational publication for underwater photographers of all skill levels and authored by the best professional underwater photographers in the world. See the exciting world beneath the sea through the lenses of these great pros and find out how they capture their results. Look for Nikonos Technique magazine at your Nikon dealer.



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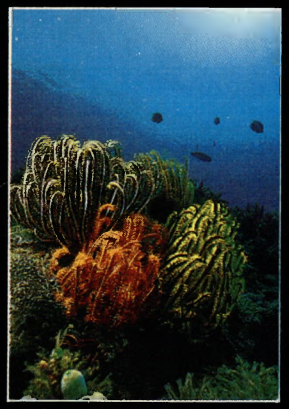
The Adventure of Diving.

It's a story about new discoveries. As you slip beneath the water's surface, you instantly realize that you have entered a world that defies description. Exploration reveals hundreds of new discoveries that evoke a feeling of appreciation for the natural beauty around you. Only photographs can convey your exhilaration to friends back home. Whether you are a novice or an advanced diver you won't want to miss any of the incredible details of a coral reef. You will want the best camera system in the world for this job.

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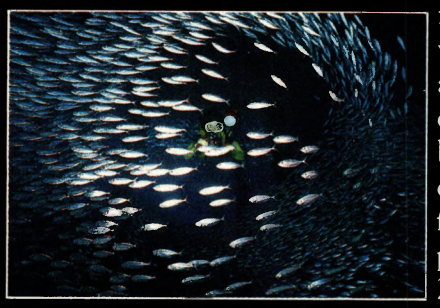
The colors are incredible. There are simply no names for some of these shades. You wonder if your photographs will capture the vivid red corals and purple sponges or the subtle markings of the multi-hued fish. You need an underwater flash—one that will record the natural tones of these spectacular colors at the proper exposure and give you even lighting coverage over the entire frame.



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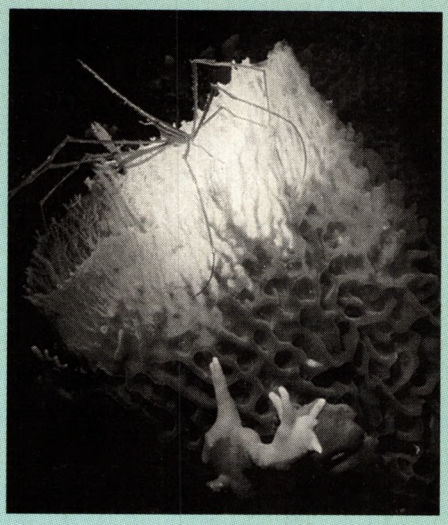
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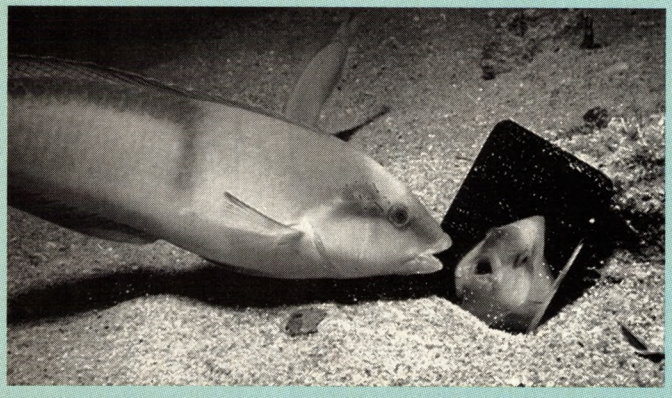
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Left: A close-up of a diver's face and a four eyed butterflyfish. Above: A backlit shot of an arrowcrab clinging to a sponge.



A small wrasse is fascinated by its reflection in a mirror.



A close-up of a red coral crab at the base of a seafan.

In essence, the close-up lens is simply an extension of the primary lens.

NINE BENEFITS OF CLOSE-UP

There are nine specific benefits of close-up photography U/W, listed below.

CLOSE-UP BENEFITS

1. Different perspective
2. Different magnification
3. Increased depth-of-field
4. Larger photo subjects
5. Sharp image detail
6. Rich color
7. Works in low visibility
8. Can be removed underwater
9. Easy to operate

Different Perspective: Close-up offers a different perspective than macro. It is a sort of a wide angle version of macro, allowing the inclusion of several small subjects. A good example of this would be a combination shot of an arrowcrab and a sponge, or a moray eel being cleaned by a juvenile angelfish, cleaner wrasse or shrimp.

Different Magnification: Magnification for close-up lenses can range from 1:3 all the way to 1:10. Compare this to the macro range of from 2:1 to 1:3. The most popular close-up magnification ratios are 1:4.5 and 1:6, corresponding to the 35 and 28mm lenses.

The reduced magnification is more natural in picture appearance because the perspective more closely resembles what the diver's eye sees.

Increased Depth of Field: One of the most welcome benefits of close-up is the increased depth of field. This is a direct result of the reduced magnification. For example, a 1:6 close-up lens provides a 3.1 inch depth of field; a 1:3 macro extension tube provides only a 1.0 inch depth of field.

Larger Photo Subjects: The most obvious benefit of close-up is the ability to photograph larger subjects. With it you can capture large crabs, octopus, small to medium sized reef fish, sponges and hundreds of other creatures. You can even shoot close-up photos of another diver's face or an interaction shot of a diver and small creature.

Sharp Image Detail: Despite the reduced image magnification and increased subject size, close-up still provides sharp images. This is because all exposures are still made at f/22. You can shoot photos where the fish fills the picture frame, providing crisp detail of even the tiniest scale pattern, fin structure or eye color. The results are startling!

Rich Color: As with macro, close-up photography provides a richness of color not often encountered in standard lens photography. This is owing to the relatively short distance between the lens and the subject.

Focus distance for close-up photography can range from 9-18 inches, depending on the brand of close-up lens used. This is far less than the minimum focus distance of 33 inches for the 35mm lens or 24 inches for the 28. This means a much shorter flash distance as well, which eliminates most of the blue filtering of light passing through water.

Works in Low Visibility: This same short focus distance between lens and subject accounts for the amazing performance of close-up lens setups in low visibility. They are often used in conditions where standard lens photography is impossible. For example, good close-up shots at 9.3 inches are possible when visibility is five feet or less.

Can Be Removed Underwater: One

(Continued on Page 27)

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Diver's Calendar

SOUTHWEST SCUBA DIVING EXHIBITION

Underwater Adventures will present a scuba diving exposition **March 5-6** at the Market Hall in Dallas, Texas. There will be aquarium displays; seminars; demonstrations; mini courses in CPR, ecology, underwater rescue and recovery, U/W photography and video.

For information contact Underwater Adventures, P.O. Box 28883, Dallas, Texas 75228; (214) 270-7070.

SEAVIEWS '88

Seaviews '88, a scuba diving symposium, will be held **March 11-13** at the Oakland Hyatt Convention Center in Oakland, California. There will be exhibits and seminars on such topics as underwater photography, travel, medicine, underwater hockey, equipment maintenance and wreck diving. There will be film festivals Friday and Saturday night.

For more information contact Seaviews '88, 16158 Yale Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA 94580; (415) 278-6119.

BOSTON SEA ROVER UNDERWATER CLINIC

The 34th Boston Sea Rover Underwater Clinic will be held **March 12** at the Copley Plaza in Boston. There will be seminars, workshops and exhibits on wreck diving, marine electronics, photography, medicine and travel.

The evening program at John Hancock Hall presents films by Jack McKenney, Stan Waterman, Emory Kristoff and others.

For information contact Bunky Hodge, 174 Beech Street, Rockland, MA 02370; (617) 878-8710.

UNDERWATER OLYMPICS

The third annual Underwater Olympics (a fundraising event for the Divers Alert Network) will be held at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, in Farmington, Michigan **March 13**.

Contact Albert Campbell at (313) 986-0261 or, after 6:00 pm, (313) 861-6323.

BENEATH THE SEA

Beneath the Sea, the 12th annual New York Oceans Exposition and International Underwater Film Festival, will take place **March 25-27** at the Westchester County Convention Center in White Plains, New York. There will be exhibits, seminars, workshops, banquets, award presentations and parties.

For information contact BTS, P.O. Box 644, Rye, NY 10580; (914) 961-2088.

CHOCOLATE ABALONE DIVE

The fourth annual Chocolate Abalone Dive will be held **March 26** at San Carlos Beach in Monterey, California (at the Coast Guard breakwater). A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Pacific Grove Recompression Chamber. Divers search for chocolate abalone underwater. Numbers with each abalone correspond to prizes waiting on shore.

For information contact Aquarius Dive shop, 2240 Del Monte Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940; (408) 375-1933.

WATERMAN IN HOUSTON

Stan Waterman will present his latest 16mm film footage—on the World War II wrecks of Guadalcanal—during its premiere at Ocean Images at the Adams Mark Hotel in Houston, Texas **April 2**. For more information contact Kenlee's Scuba Centers, 5705 Glenmont, Houston, TX 77081; (713) 661-6080.

UNDERWATER CANADA '88

The 16th annual Underwater Canada dive show will be held **April 8-10** at the Constellation Hotel in Toronto, Canada. There will be a film festival, exhibits, symposiums, workshops and a "Pirates of the Caribbean Casino."

For information contact Underwater Canada, 1220 Sheppard Ave. East, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2K 2X1; (416) 495-4245.

KANSAS CITY U/W FILM FESTIVAL

Diver's Equipment & Repair in Kansas City, Missouri will host an U/W film festival **April 15** at Ararat Temple, 5100 Ararat Drive in Kansas City. Jack McKenney is the featured guest.

For information contact Diver's Equipment & Repair, 5800 Barrymore Drive, Kansas City, MO 64134; (816) 763-5678.

SCUBA FLEA MARKET

Wright State University's annual Scuba Flea Market and Diver Exchange will be held **April 17** in the Physical Education Building on the main campus in Dayton, Ohio. There will be sales of new and used scuba equipment, craft displays, education and travel programs.

For information contact Dan Orr, Director, Underwater Education Program, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio 45435; telephone (513) 435-2676.

OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER

Our World-Underwater will be held this year at the Hyat Regency O'Hare in Chicago, Illinois **April 22-24**. There will be speakers, exhibits, dances, seminars and two film shows, featuring Al Giddings and Emory Kristof. Contact Our World-Underwater, P.O. Box 4468, Chicago, IL 60680; (312) 427-5676.

MCKENNEY/MIAMI

NAUI South Atlantic Branch will host An Evening with Jack McKenney—with films, slide shows and a photo contest—**April 30** at Barry University Auditorium, 11300 NE Second Avenue, Miami Shores, Florida.

For information contact NAUI South Atlantic, Valerie Rutledge, 7705 SW 71 Ave., Miami, FL 33143; (305) 667-6876.

SAN FRANCISCO SAFETY SEMINAR

San Francisco State University will host a diver safety seminar **April 30-May 1**. Net proceeds will be divided between DAN and the Pacific Grove Rescue Unit Chamber Fund. Attendees will practice diver rescues.

For information contact Bob Brandeberry, 1474 Ascension Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402; (415) 341-1957.

skin diver

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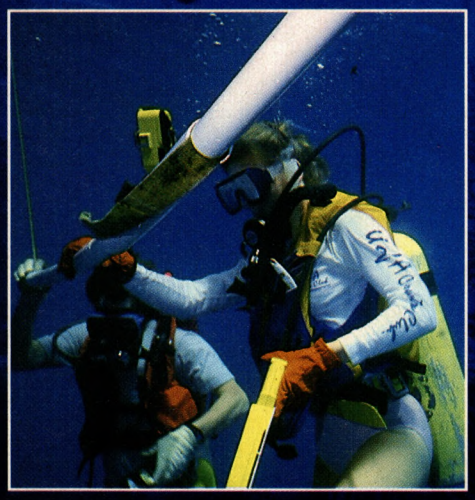
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Scuba Quiz

Category: Diving Skills

Topic: Navigation A to Z

By Dennis Graver

To be a good diver, you need to know where you are with reference to where you want to go. This requires good navigational ability. The greater your knowledge of navigational terms, the better your navigational ability is likely to be. Test your navigational skills by matching the following terms and definitions. Each definition is used only once. The answers are on the following page.

A. Lubber line
B. Direct reading compass
C. Indirect reading compass
D. Bearing
E. Heading
F. Pilotage
G. Dead Reckoning
H. Variation
I. Nautical mile
J. Deviation
K. Compass error
L. Transit bearing
M. Range
N. Declination
O. Estimated position
P. Inclination
Q. Leeway
R. Position
S. Fix
T. Chart
U. Latitude
V. Longitude
W. Meridian
X. Bezel
Y. True north
Z. Magnetic north

1. ___ Side-slippage in the direction of a current while swimming across a current.
2. ___ A certain location based on two or more crossed bearings of terrestrial objects.
3. ___ The angular direction to an object expressed in terms of compass degrees from north.
4. ___ Two objects that, when aligned, indicate a course.
5. ___ A course followed or to be followed.
6. ___ A nautical map.
7. ___ Calculation of position based on estimations of distance and direction.
8. ___ Result of combined effects of variation and deviation.
9. ___ Effect of nearby metal on a compass.
10. ___ Local difference in degrees between true and magnetic north.
11. ___ A fixed reference part of a compass.
12. ___ A movable reference part of a compass.
13. ___ The point near the north pole toward which a magnetic needle will point.
14. ___ A bearing taken by lining up two fixed objects on shore.
15. ___ A specific site or location expressed in terms of latitude and longitude.
16. ___ The angular distance in degrees north or south of the equator.
17. ___ One minute of latitude.
18. ___ The angular distance in degrees east or west of Greenwich, England.
19. ___ Location determined with allowances for water movement.
20. ___ The north-south alignment of a magnetic compass.
21. ___ The vertical dip of a compass needle.
22. ___ A line of longitude.
23. ___ Confirmation of a position with visual check points.
24. ___ Reads 0-360 degrees in clockwise direction. The lubber line is aligned with the desired course.
25. ___ Reads 0-360 degrees in counterclockwise direction. The lubber line is aligned with 0 degrees.
26. ___ The direction along a geographical meridian from an observer to the north pole.

Scuba Quiz

Answers: Navigation A to Z

1. Q. A diver may not maintain a true course owing to sideways movement caused by a current. Corrections for **leeway** must be made if a diver's course is to be accurate.

2. S. When the direction and distance to two or more land based objects is known, a **fix** is attained. A fix obtained with two sets of in-line objects is more accurate than a fix obtained with compass bearings to two or more objects.

3. D. A **bearing** is the angular direction to an object expressed in terms of compass degrees from north, e.g., a bearing of 270 degrees.

4. L. When two objects in line indicate a course to be followed, the objects form a **transit bearing**.

5. E. A **heading** is a course followed or to be followed. A heading may change from time to time. Several headings combine to form a dive pattern, such as a square.

6. T. Maps are used on land. Nautical maps are **charts**.

7. G. When a position is calculated based on estimations of distance and direction, **dead reckoning** is being employed.

8. K. The total effect of deviation and variation are known as **compass error**.

9. J. A compass error caused by nearby ferrous metal is termed **deviation**.

10. H. The difference in amount and direction between magnetic north and true north is called **variation**.

11. A. The **lubber line** is a fixed reference line on a compass used to determine and follow a course.

12. X. A rotating collar on a diving compass equipped with alignment marks to indicate a course to be followed is known as a **bezel**.

13. Z. The point near the north pole toward which a compass will point is known as **magnetic north**. The direction of magnetic north varies over the surface of the earth. Magnetic north also changes from year to year, requiring chart updating.

14. M. When an observer can see two objects in line, he or she is situated on a line joining the objects. This position line is termed a **range**. A range is similar to a transit bearing (See answer #2).

15. R. A **position** is properly expressed in terms of latitude and longitude.

16. U. Parallels of **latitude** echo the line of the equator and are scribed on most maps and charts.

17. I. One minute of latitude equals one **nautical mile** (6,080 feet). One nautical mile equals 1.15 statute miles. One knot equals one nautical mile per hour. A cable is 0.1 nautical mile.

18. V. Longitude is the portion of the equator intersected between the meridian of a given place and the prime meridian of Greenwich, England. The longitude of a place is expressed in degrees or in time. See answer #22 for the definition of meridian.

19. O. A position arrived at with allowances for wind, tide and currents is an **estimated position**, which is abbreviated EP.

20. N. The alignment of a compass needle north and south is called **declination**.

21. P. The vertical dip of a compass needle is referred to as **inclination**. The needle actually points through the earth straight toward magnetic north.

22. W. A great circle on the surface of the earth, passing through the poles and any given place; also half of such a circle included between the poles is termed a **meridian**. A series of meridians are numbered according to degrees of longitude.

23. F. When a certain location is confirmed by means of visual check points, **pilotage** navigation is being used. Diving navigation is usually a combination of pilotage and dead reckoning (See answer #7).

24. B. There are more than one-half dozen types of compasses. About half of them are **direct reading compasses**, which means the lubber line is aligned with the course bearing to be followed. The degree markings on direct reading compasses read in a clockwise direction.

25. C. An **indirect reading compass** has a fixed dial that reads 0-360 degrees in a counterclockwise direction. Alignment marks on a rotatable bezel are bracketed by the compass needle to indicate the course to be followed.

26. Y. True north is a geographical location with reference to the earth's axis rather than to the magnetic poles. True north is not the same as magnetic north.

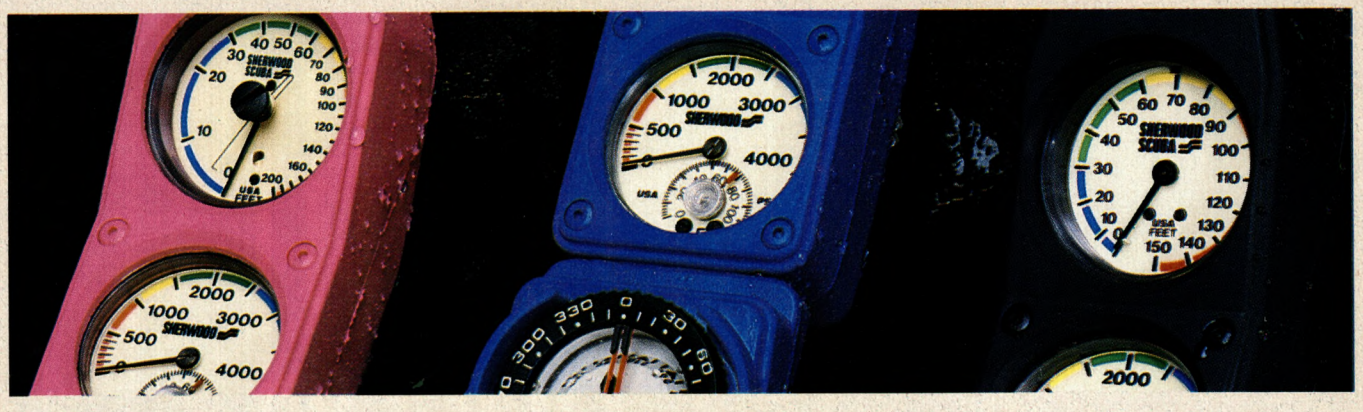
Navigation is the science of knowing exactly where you are, where you have been and where you intend to go. Diving navigation is somewhat like aerial navigation. This is because depth adds a third dimension. Information needed to navigate includes depth, distance, duration (time) and direction. A diver needs some means to obtain information for each of these requirements and the ability to properly use the information to navigate with reasonable accuracy.

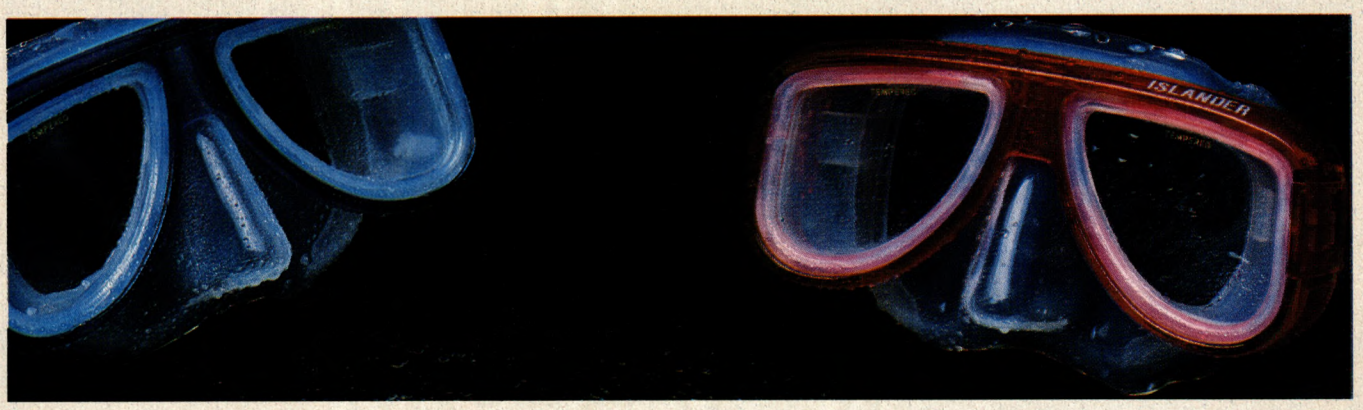
Underwater navigation differs from above water nautical navigation, but learning topside techniques is of value to the underwater navigator. Boating courses, which are readily available, are recommended for all divers. You will learn a great deal of valuable information about seamanship and boat handling as well as navigation. All of these subjects are extremely useful for divers.

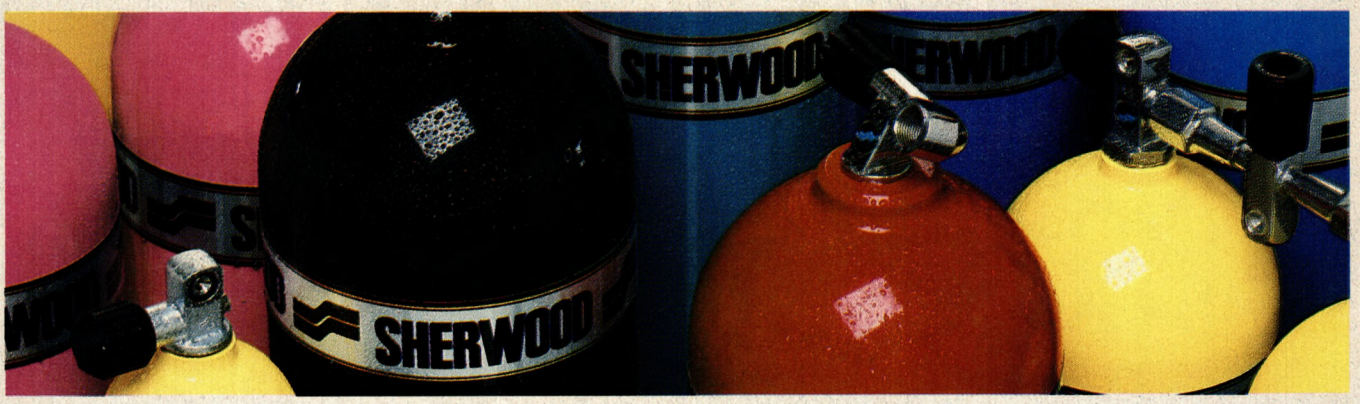
Divers need only concern themselves with relative direction in most instances, so diving navigation is not very difficult. All divers should be proficient diving navigators, but many are not. The best way to learn underwater navigation is to complete an advanced diving course. When you can navigate well, you will make better use of your dive time, will dive more safely and will have more fun.

Next month's quiz will also address navigation, so study this month's column well.

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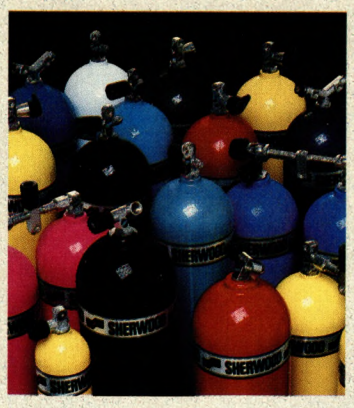
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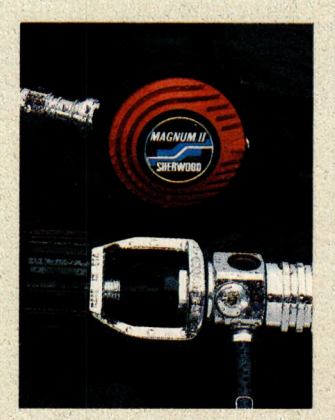
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NIKONOS COURSE

(Continued from Page 15)

of the greatest advantages of close-ups over macro is that close-up lenses can be removed or put on U/W. This means the diver can instantly switch from close-up to standard lens photography when the situation requires it.

Most close-up lenses slip over the primary 35 or 28mm lenses. Some are held in place by either a snug fit or by a screw clamp. Others are screwed into the threaded flange on the primary lens. In any case, they can be removed quickly.

Easy to Operate: As with macro, the close-up system is easy to operate. Camera controls are pre-set before the dive. The flash is held or mounted at a pre-set distance and angle. Close-up photography is basically "point and shoot."

Because of its ease of operation, a close-up system is ideal for night diving and night photography. There are no camera settings to change and a dive light can be mounted on the strobe head for illumination and aiming.

EXPOSURE CALCULATIONS

Flash exposures are calculated differently for close-up than they are for macro. The absence of extension tubes eliminates the problem of light loss inside the lens barrel and the need for f/stop compensation. Close-up flash exposures are calculated with the standard flash exposure tables.

NEED FOR POWERFUL FLASH

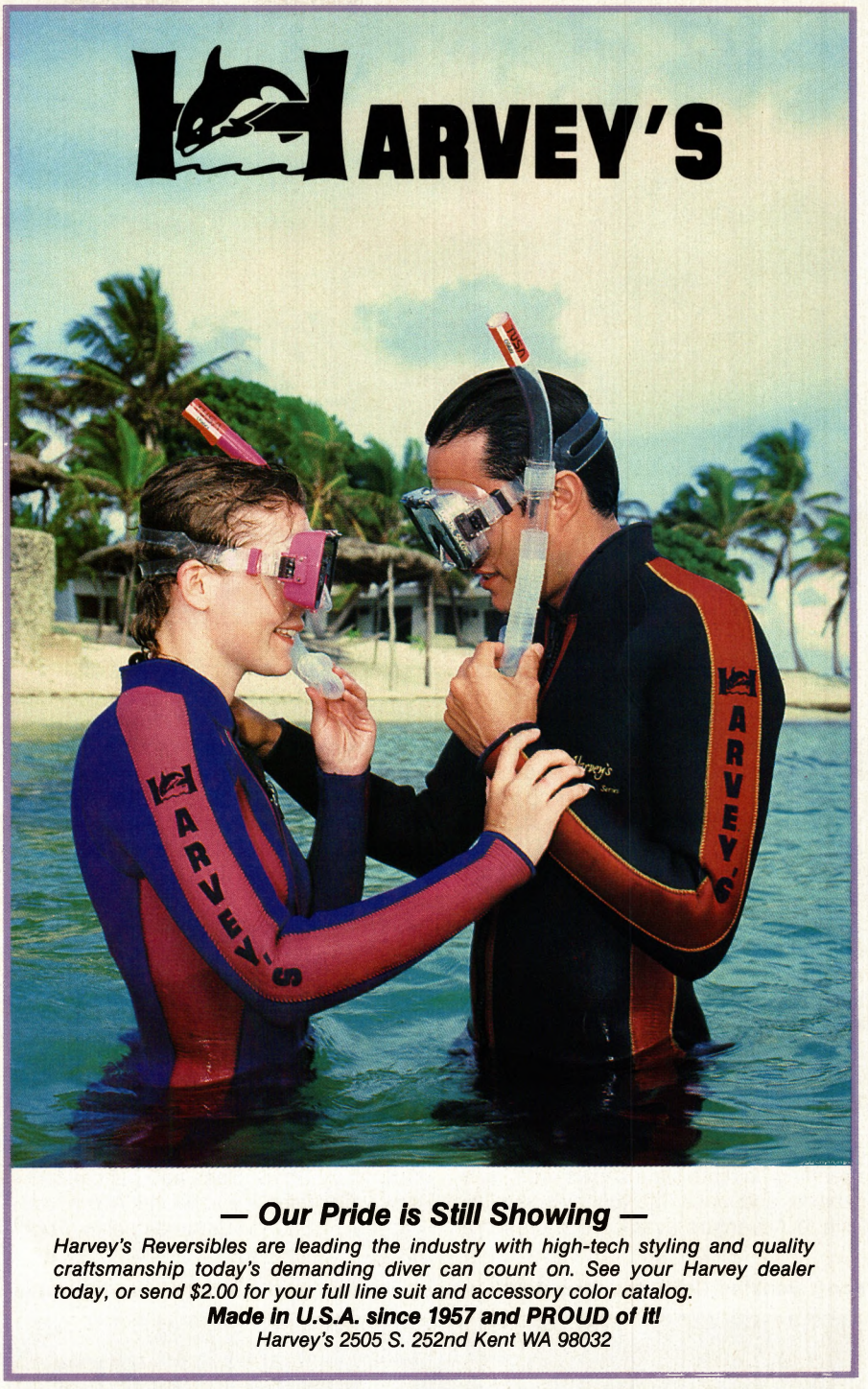
Because of the increased distance and area coverage, close-up requires a fairly powerful flash. It should be able to achieve an aperture of f/22 at one foot, using ISO 50 film.

There are several mini strobes powerful enough to allow this. Photographers with weaker strobes often use twin flash setups. However, many photographers prefer using a "big gun" strobe. Any of these approaches is acceptable.

CLOSE-UP VERSUS MACRO

When compared to macro, one could say that close-up is easier in the areas of focus and framing. The increased depth of field is very helpful. On the other hand, even lighting is more difficult because of the increased area.

The important thing is that both close-up and macro have their own separate places in underwater photography. Both are important if you wish to master the entire spectrum of photo technique. Macro is great for high image magnification of very tiny creatures. Close-up is ideal for medium magnification of larger creatures and small fish. And, both offer a very rewarding approach to underwater photography. You will love the results!



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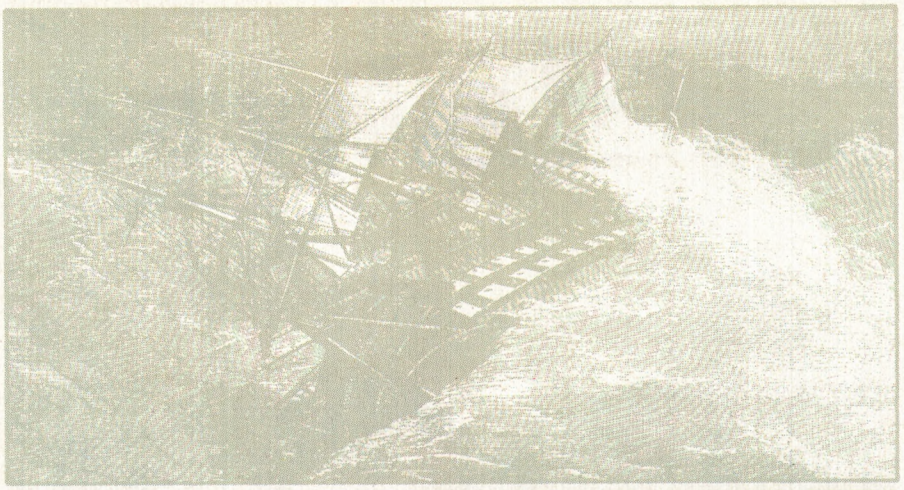
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Wreck Facts

BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

Mal Kroeber, Hockessin, Delaware exclaimed, "I'm glad it's back and I hope it stays!" He was referring to the 15th Inward to the Sea Underwater Festival held at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. After a one year hiatus, director Fran Wilson and a staff of volunteers resurrected the show that has always been popular with divers from Washington, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Obtaining volunteers to organize and operate the nonprofit festival has been a problem in the past and something Wilson hopes to surmount in the future.

Hundreds of divers and their guests echoed Mal Kroeber's sentiments after attending daytime slide shows, seminars, exhibits and Jack McKenney's exciting Dive to Adventure evening film presentation. Inward to the Sea didn't disappoint wreck divers, who were enthralled by Scott Jenkins' and Ken Smith's multi-slide show, Carolina Comfort, featuring four popular wrecks in the Graveyard of the Atlantic. Marita DeGroot, Debbie Mansfield and Linda Robertson assisted Jenkins and Smith in their Poseidon Video Production show on the *U-352*, *Tarpon*, *Proteus* and *Malchase*.

The *U-352* was the first German submarine sunk by the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II. The cutter *Icarus* sank it in 90 feet of water approximately 20 miles off Moorehead City. The *U-352* remains one of the most intriguing wrecks off the coast of North Carolina. The *Tarpon*, a U.S. Navy Shark class sub built in 1936, saw valiant service in World War II, sinking the 11,000 ton Japanese ship, *Fushima Maru*. In 1947, while under tow to New Orleans to become a training vessel, the *Tarpon* took on water in a sudden storm and sank off Cape Hatteras. In 1918, the 406 foot long passenger steamer *Proteus* sank in a fog-shrouded sea after colliding with the Standard Oil tanker, *Cushing*. The tanker rescued all passengers as the *Proteus* sank approximately 20 miles from Ocracoke Inlet, North Carolina. Originally christened *Chickamaugh*, the freighter *Malchase* was torpedoed in 1942 by the German sub *U-160*. She sank about 25 miles east of Cape Lookout, with 3,600 tons of soda ash in her hold. One crewman drowned, the rest were picked up by the Mexican tanker, *Faja de Oro*.

Bob Kutzieb and Bob Whaley revealed some astounding slides and statistics in their presentation of the search and recovery of the *Challenger* S51L space shuttle, which disintegrated over Cape Canaveral two years ago. The expedition, working from February 6 to August 29, 1986 made 881 U/W debris contacts and recoveries over a 456 square mile radius. Whaley equated this to searching the entire area within Washington's Capitol Beltway with a fine tooth comb. Divers, manned submersibles and U/W robots worked in depths from 10-1,200 feet where visibility ranged from 0-30 feet. There were 3,077 manned dives (not including submersibles or robots), the deepest one to 177 feet. A total of 1,549 hours of bottom time were logged during the search and recovery of parts of the historic, but tragic *Challenger.*

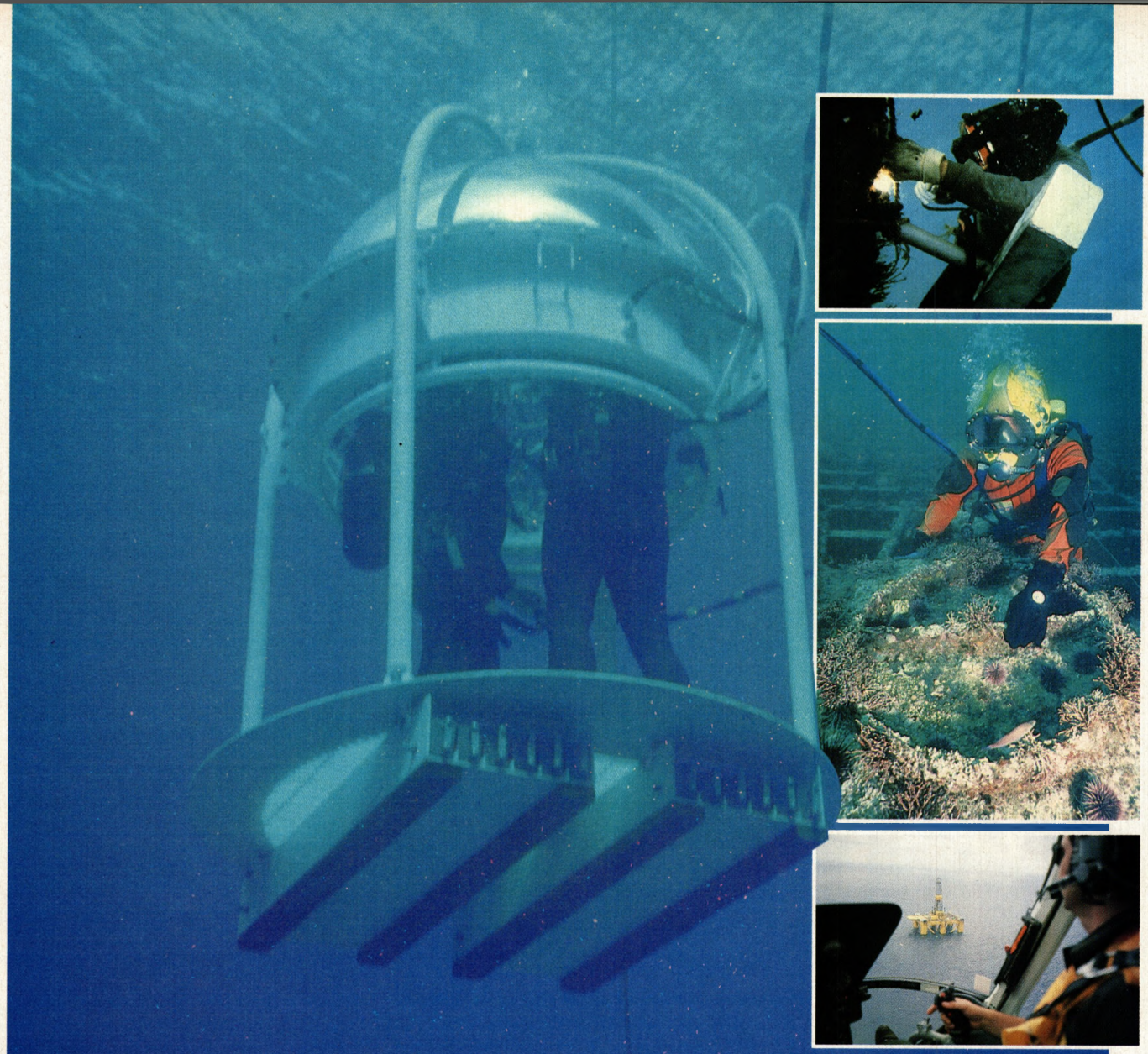
Bill Eddy, founder and director of the Nautical Archaeology Division of the Capitol Divers Association, presented a capsule summary of his Nautical Archaeology Training Program for Sport Divers. Based on conservation and preservation of underwater artifacts, Eddy's program consists of three levels of training: underwater archaeology, an introduction to the conservation and preservation of underwater artifacts and field study on underwater archaeology. Ninety minute classes are conducted one night a week for 10 weeks, plus Saturdays, often including a hands-on, learn by doing approach. Eddy stressed the diver's responsibility for conservation and preservation of the environment and any artifacts retrieved. He includes everything from working in archives to mapping, photographing, triangulation exercises, use of remote sensors and other high-tech aspects of underwater archaeology. He utilizes expert local resource people such as Mendel Peterson—formerly with Smithsonian Institution—and includes studies being conducted in the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

Mike Parks, Baltimore, Maryland had a list at his exhibit booth depicting 150 confirmed shipwrecks from Lewes, Delaware to Chincoteague, Virginia. An experienced researcher, Parks is compiling a second list of 300 wrecks in the middle

Scott Jenkins (left) and Ken Smith adjust camera settings before a river dive.



photo/Norman Skinner



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WRECK FACTS

Atlantic area. One of his favorites is the *San Gill*, a U.S. Fruit Company freighter torpedoed in 1942 by the *U-103*. About 500 feet long, the wreck sits in 125 feet of water approximately 20 miles off Ocean City, Maryland. Another popular site is the USS *Cherokee*, a navy gunboat that sank in 1918 in 100 feet of water. She is about 120 feet long, sporting a bow gun still intact. Divers charter out of Indian River Inlet, Delaware to reach her. Parks was born and raised in Point Austin, Michigan, but migrated to Maryland via commercial diving ventures. Two or three times a year he takes experienced divers back to old stomping grounds in Lake Huron for deep dives on well preserved wrecks. He is connected with several museums around the Great Lakes where his artifacts are on display. His Inward to the Sea exhibit included English ironstone china, brass portholes, earthenware jugs and deadeyes. Mike's home base is 8027 Liberty Road, Baltimore, MD 21207.

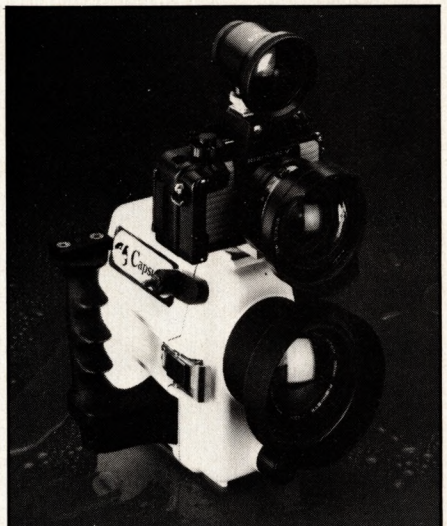
The Atlantis Divers, 250 members strong, are into their 29th year of operation, diving the East Coast from Long Island to North Carolina. Tome Allen displayed a large porthole Greg Masi retrieved off the *John Morgan*, a Liberty ship wrecked off Virginia Beach, Virginia. The *Morgan*, whose hold still retains the remains of a cargo of tanks, jeeps and munitions, collided with the steamship *Montana* in 1943. Masi's porthole was part of a bulkhead that gave way when he attempted to dislodge it. Allen says his dive buddy airlifted "half the ship" in order to get the prized porthole. It's so heavy, the two Atlantis veterans could barely lift it to show me where it once had a dog. Although another one was missing when it was retrieved, Allen happened to find it in the sand on a subsequent dive. "I was doggone lucky," he smiled. Atlantis Rangers may be contacted at P.O. Box 210, College Park, Maryland 20740.

The evening session of the festival was highlighted by Jack McKenney's Dive to Adventure film show in Lisner Auditorium where more than 800 fans applauded the drama and humor in his various productions. His *The Bay of Dolphins* was to be part of a National Geographic special shortly after Inward to the Sea's show.

MARYLAND DIVERS BEWARE

A draft for a vicious and restrictive bill is being circulated: Proposed Legislation for the Protection of Underwater Archaeological Resources in Maryland Waters. Wording of the proposed bill covers *all* shipwrecks. The Maryland Historical Trust—advocates of the bill—can call any wreck they want "historic."

(Continued on Page 172)



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Diving Medicine

BY ALFRED A. BOVE, M.D., PH.D.

Ear problems are commonly discussed in my correspondence. This month I am repeating an article on ears that covers the most common questions asked about ears and diving. The drawing of the ear will help you to understand how it responds to the pressure changes in diving and the problems that can occur owing to pressure imbalance.

Question: Is it possible to dive with a perforated eardrum?

Answer: No. Sometimes cold water entering the middle ear through a perforated eardrum will upset the balance mechanism next to the middle ear and cause sudden vertigo, dizziness or even vomiting. None of these things are conducive to safe diving. Also, when there is a hole in your eardrum, water will enter the middle ear, cause an infection and eventually, with repeated damage, result in hearing problems. However, most perforated eardrums are not permanent, so you must let the perforation heal before diving. If you rupture an eardrum while diving, you should see a physician, get treatment to prevent ear infection and wait for healing to occur. You may be unable to dive for three to four weeks, but with proper care, the drum will heal. After an examination by your doctor, you should be able to dive again.

Several divers wrote about chronic eardrum perforations—ones that will not heal. I discussed this problem with my ear, nose and throat colleagues. They say that chronic eardrum perforations usually occur when there is poor middle ear drainage. This situation often occurs because of a blocked eustachian tube and unless the tube is opened, the perforation will not heal. Occasionally, someone will have a healed eardrum with a permanent perforation. In order to dive these people would have to get the eardrum repaired surgically. If you perforate an eardrum while diving, seek medical help to make sure it heals properly. If it does not, you need further medical treatment to be sure the perforation does not become permanent.

Question: A week after diving I noticed some difficulty with hearing in one ear, the ear feels full and I notice an occasional hissing or buzzing sound in it. Is this related to diving?

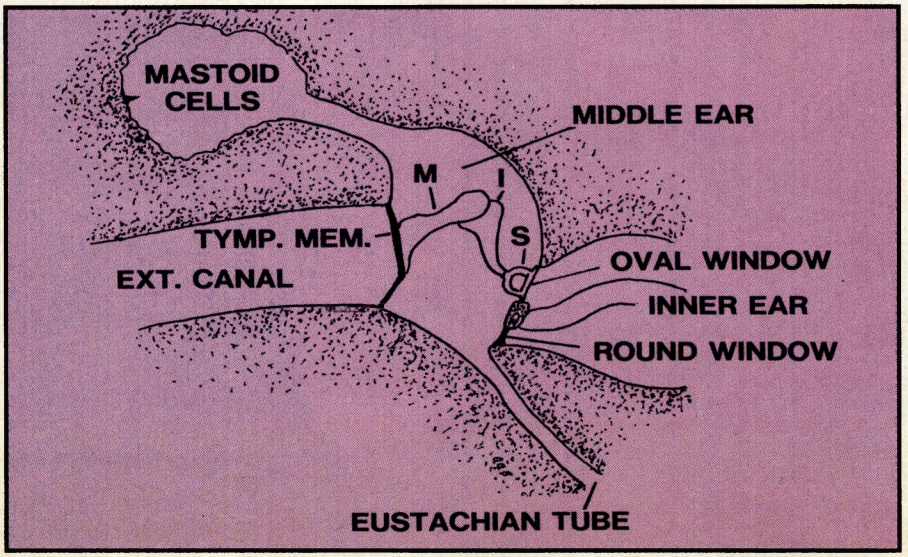
Answer: Yes, this is a common result of an ear squeeze. The squeeze caused some fluid to accumulate in the middle ear. Often this will not drain and the fluid-filled middle ear does not transmit sound properly. Occasionally, the fluid stimulates the hearing mechanism and a continuous dull hiss or buzz can be heard. We call this *serous otitis*. It can be prevented by having your ears checked after diving if you had problems clearing and experienced ear squeeze. Once fluid forms in the middle ear, it will remain there unless it has a way to drain. Normally, fluid drains through the eustachian tube, but if the tube is blocked, the fluid will stay. Usually a week's course of decongestants will clear the fluid, but if it doesn't, you need help from an ear specialist. Most *serous otitis* can be treated with medication and after it is gone, you can return to diving.

Question: After my last dive, I developed a buzzing sound in one ear. I didn't have an ear squeeze and my doctor found no abnormality when he examined my ears. How can I get rid of the sound?

Answer: This problem is rare and more difficult to deal with than an ear squeeze. Occasionally a diver will suddenly develop a buzzing sound that becomes more or less permanent. Sometimes hearing is reduced in the same ear. There is a similar problem that can occur in nondivers. It is called Meniere's disease and produces hearing loss, buzzing in the ear, and vertigo or dizziness. It is thought to be caused by excess inner ear fluid causing excess pressure that damages the hearing and balance organs. The problem divers occasionally get is something like this disease, although those who have written to me about it did not have vertigo. In both divers and nondivers, the problem can go on for years and the constant buzzing can be very annoying. Treating is often complex. Sometimes medicines work and sometimes a surgical procedure is helpful. In any case, the problem requires consultation with an ear specialist. There is no reason to give up diving unless vertigo or dizziness is present. One other possibility that should be considered when you have sudden hearing loss in one or both ears after diving is decompression sickness. Although rare and unlikely to occur in sport diving, a sudden hearing loss after diving not related to ear squeeze may be an uncommon result of decompression sickness and would require hyperbaric chamber treatment. You should consult a diving physician if this occurs, since treatment will often restore hearing while lack of it may result in permanent hearing loss.

I should mention another rare ear problem that occurs on descent. It is usually called round window rupture. The round window is a fibrous membrane in the middle ear that seals the inner ear fluid from the middle ear. If it is ruptured, fluid leaks from the inner ear to the middle ear. Hearing loss or balance problems follow and may become permanent unless the tear is repaired. The round window usually is ruptured by forceful efforts at ear clearing on descent. When it occurs, there is sudden hearing loss and vertigo, but the pain associated with an eardrum rupture is usually not present. If round window rupture is suspected, the diver should exit the water immediately and seek expert advice for diagnosis and treatment. Ear surgery may be needed to repair the torn membrane. Round window rupture *is* a reason to give up all diving.

Injuries to the ear are some of the most common problems encountered during diving.



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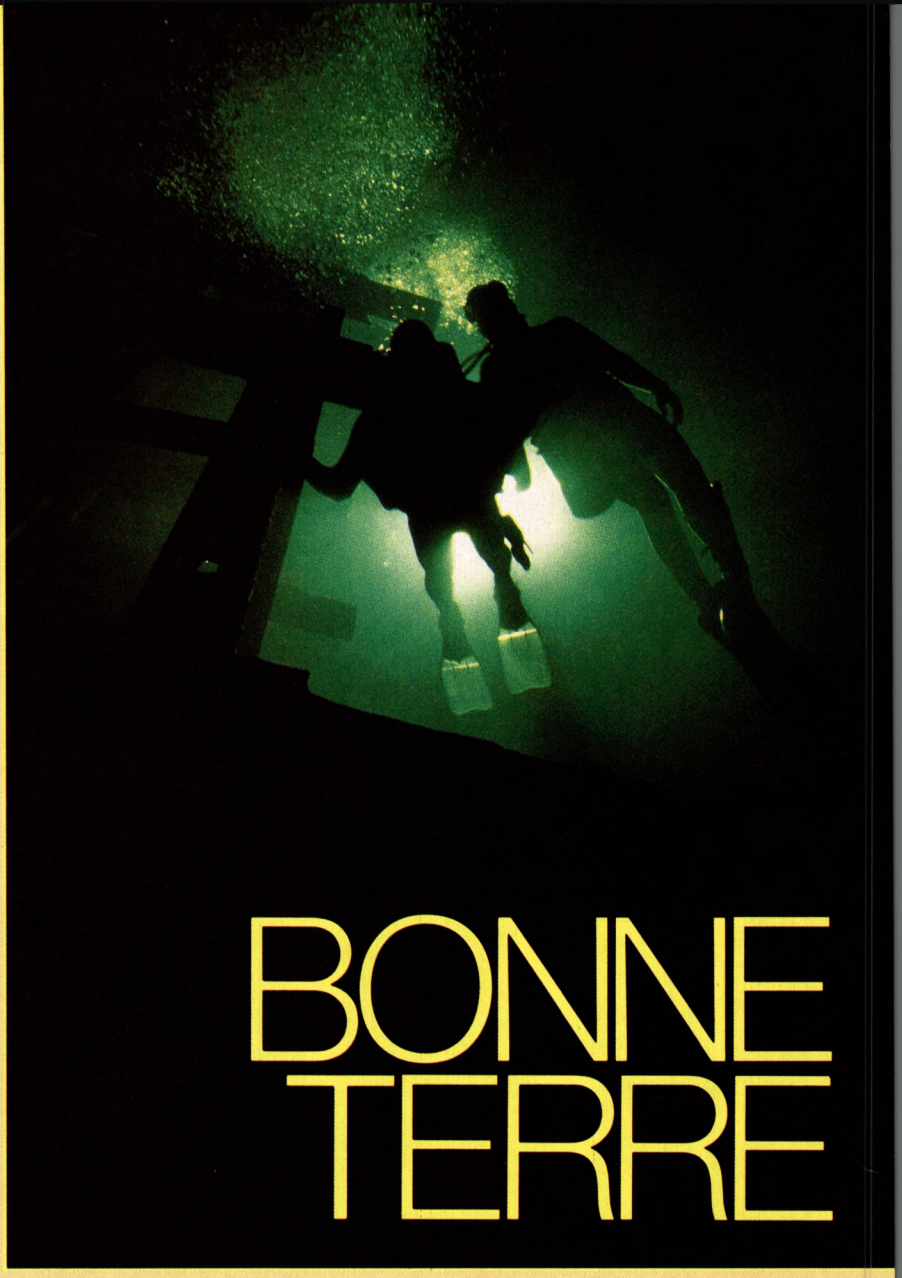
The new age in dive planning has dawned. It's about time.

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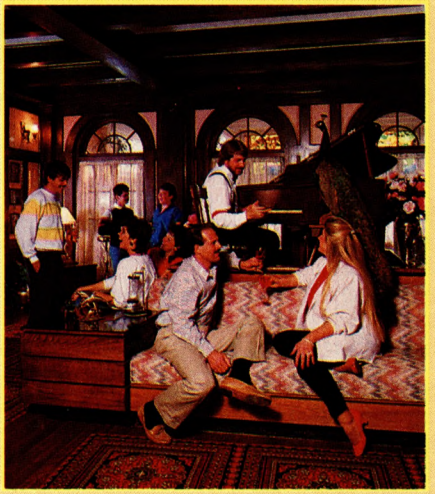
BONNE TERRE

The Billion Gallon Lake Resort offers 17 miles of navigable waterways in which divers can examine relics left from the lead mining activity. The mine is so large that the entire town of Bonne Terre could fit inside it. The spacious underwater trails are illuminated by 250,000 watts of dramatic lighting. Walking tours of the mine are offered as well. Each level of Bonne Terre Mine is different, with the lower levels dominated by huge rock pillars left by the miners to support the ceilings.









Doug and Cathy Goergens (foreground) and friends enjoy musical entertainment in the living room of the elegant Mansion Hill Country Inn. The inn was formerly the residence of the president of St. Joe Lead.

It's a time capsule; an engineering marvel and an unbeatable weekend getaway. Its highly unusual diving has attracted the attention of such photographic and cinematographic notables as the Cousteau team, Jack McKenney and Rick Freshee. It's located in the heart of North America. What is it? It could only be Missouri's Billion Gallon Lake Resort in the Bonne Terre Mine and the Mansion Hill Country Inn.

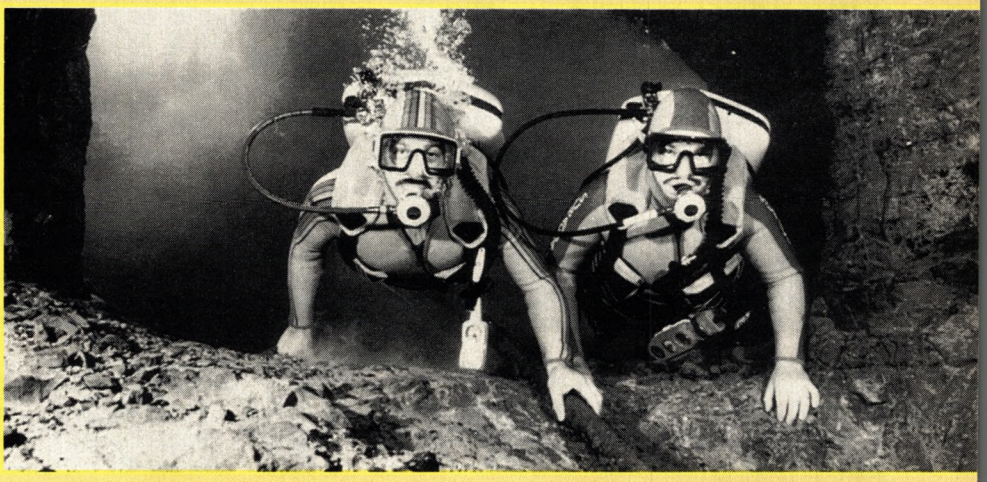
Although the initial French surveys of this area in the 1720s failed to uncover large gold and silver reserves, they did discover an impressive quantity of surface lead deposits. In 1864 the region's first mine shaft was sunk; three years later St. Joe Lead formed. Before long, St. Joe Lead owned and operated many of the area's mines including Bonne Terre. By the time it built the 32 room mansion for its corporate president in the early 1900s, St. Joe lead was one of the few successful mining operations.

Historic Bonne Terre reveals the evolution of modern mining techniques. More than one-half century ago, mules hauled one ton ore carts up the same walkway divers now use to enter the mine. When mechanization phased out the use of mules at most other mines the paths they had used were carved away for mineral deposits and vertical shafts were dug to

Right: The Mansion Hill Country Inn offers gourmet food (made to order from scratch), turn of the century ambiance with a nautical flair and warm hospitality. The Goergens hand picked each element of the decor. Additionally, on the mine property, several small shops recreate the small town mining environment. Below: Doug Goergens and Carl Rogers swim through the crystal clear water in Bonne Terre Mine's Lake Room.



photo/Chris Reetz



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TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK M. LAWRENCE

shorten the ore recovery route. Bonne Terre is thus doubly blessed by possessing both extraordinarily clear water and, just as rare, a pathway that provides easy access to the mine.

Walking down the old mule entrance, you pass the first level where the rooms are scarcely as tall as the men who worked them. Many walls and hundreds of pillars were left behind to support the low ceiling. As you stroll into level two, the scale of the chambers and columns increases. More sophisticated techniques used to sculpt this second tier allowed floors to spread out from 20 to more than 60 feet below the rock roof. Pillars still dominate the minescape. In the third level, now partially flooded for diving, ceiling to floor distances may reach 200 feet! Fifty foot diameter rough hewn rock pillars look like earth colored giant sequoia trees. If you surface along one of the U/W trails from the average depth of 40-60 feet, you and your guide may look up to the roof 50-150 feet above your head. In chambers this big, you easily forget you are underground.

How big is it? The mine has 17 miles of navigable waterways. The entire town of Bonne Terre could actually fit inside! Imagine yourself swimming through a manmade structure with a volume far exceeding that of the Superdome, marked by towering Gothic pillars and sweeping stone arches, illuminated with more than 250,000 watts of warm light and you may come close to envisioning the experience of diving in the Bonne Terre Mine.

West End Diving Centers has acquired full ownership of the mine property. Just as they did with the Mansion Hill Country Inn, Doug and Cathy Goergens have begun devoting their time and energy to restoring the mine complex. Several small shops, built in a semicircle facing the mine's old mule entrance, recreate the small mine town environment that's reminiscent of the old western frontier. The quaint barber shop built by ex-miners and the tiny bank, with its barred teller's window, look like something from a Hollywood set. Fresh coats of paint and the introduction of new shops are bringing life to the area again. In the museum adjoining the general store, you can browse past displays of mining relics and sundry items from the miners' homes.

Townsfolk donated many of the unusual objects. The memorabilia gives you insight into the everyday life of the hard working miners. Sign up for the one hour walking tour of the mine at the general store; it is a great way to learn about the underground features and overall mine structure before you go diving.

At the time of this writing, Cathy Goergens has initiated renovation of two of the old storefronts to create a casual restaurant—the Deep Earth Deli—featuring overstuffed sandwiches and grinders. Her plans include the reopening of a clothing shop to offer a variety of resort wear. In keeping with Cathy's strong sense of local history and traditions, she has recruited a storyteller to visit the mine village on the weekends and repeat the colorful tales and legends of the lead belt

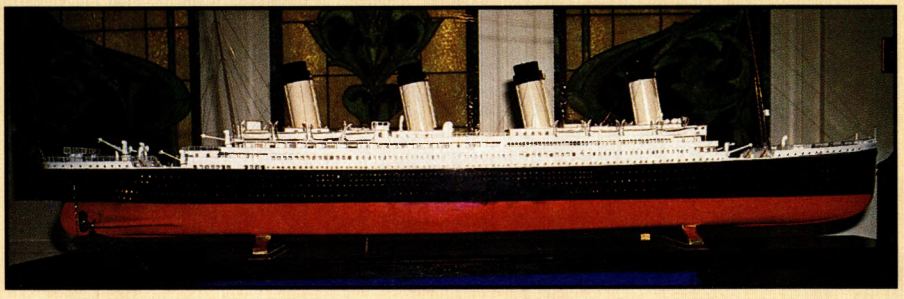
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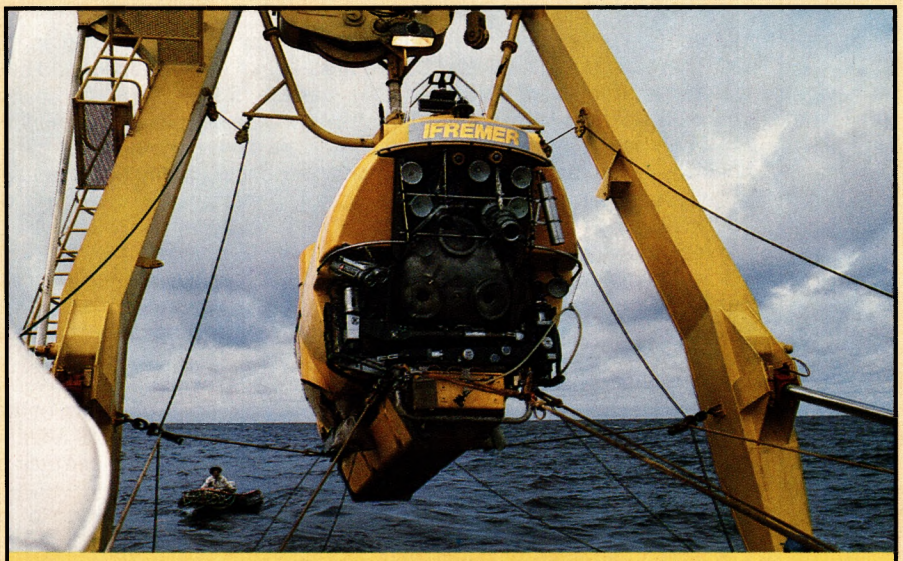
TITANIC ADVENTURE

THE FIRST WOMAN TO DIVE THE WORLD'S DEEPEST WRECK





photos/Bonnie J. Cardone



Last summer, Jennifer Carter was the leader of the American film team of the French-American *Titanic* expedition. She was the first woman to make a dive on the ship. The *Titanic* model pictured is owned by Byron Matson and is on display at San Sylmar in Sylmar, CA. The U/W photo shows the starboard side of the *Titanic*. A porthole, with glass intact, is visible near the bottom, left. Dives on the *Titanic* were made in the submersible *Nautile*, being launched in the photo above.

BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

The enormity of the tragedy boggles the mind: She was a luxurious passenger liner on her way from England to the U.S. Said to be unsinkable, she carried a glittering selection of high society's most prominent members, people who brought along maids, valets and nannies to tend to their every need. But, on this, her maiden voyage, the *Titanic* struck an iceberg. Less than three hours later, she was 13,000 feet down on the bottom of the ocean. Only 705 of those aboard her survived, more than 1,500 perished.

The tragedy occurred in April 1912, but interest in the ship has not abated. It is easy to become obsessed with her story. Part of the reason she still commands so much interest must be because the disaster could have been avoided. She might not have sunk and so many lives might not have been lost if: the ice warnings had been heeded and the ship's speed reduced; the lookout had had binoculars; the moon was out and the sea not glassy calm, allowing the iceberg to be seen much earlier; there were enough lifeboats

and people had not been afraid to board them; the crew of the *Californian* had responded to the *Titanic*'s distress signals.

The *Titanic* was lost until 1985 when a French-American expedition headed by Dr. Robert Ballard of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution along with Jean-Louis Michel and Jean Jarry, both of Institut Francais de Recherches pour L'Eploitation des Mers, pinpointed its location. *Argo*, a mechanical sled carrying video cameras and other electronic equipment, took the first U/W pictures of the *Titanic*.

In 1986, Ballard and a Woods Hole team returned to the site. Using the submersible *Alvin*, they made the historic first dives on the wreck. The result was a National Geographic special that is now for sale as a videotape, two articles in National Geo and a brand new book, *The Discovery of the Titanic*, all authored by Ballard. Like a true *Titanic* fanatic, I have eagerly devoured all of them, finding each an absolute treasure.

In August and early September of last year another expedition visited the *Titanic*, making 32 more dives on her and not only taking pictures but also bringing up from 300 to almost 900 (depending on the source, the number varies) artifacts. These included: an 18 inch high bronze cherub with movable wings; a decorative vase; a gold gilded chandelier; pots; many, many dishes; one of the ship's bells; the compass, wheel and two telegraphs from the stern docking bridge; an intact leaded glass window; a leather valise containing jewels and currency; a porthole; and Captain E.J. Smith's megaphone. At the time of this writing, these were undergoing preservation and restoration at Electricite de France, a French firm that is very experienced in this sort of work. The artifacts will not be sold. They will eventually become part of a traveling exhibition, to be seen in museums around the world.

In early October, SKIN DIVER interviewed Jennifer Carter, leader of the American film team on the 1987 expedition. Jennifer has dived all over the world, including: the Red Sea, Australia, the Pacific, South Pacific, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Cozumel and Loch Ness, Scotland. She has been producing and leading expeditions for National Geographic and Walt Disney for 15 years. Many of her projects have been underwater films, such as the Emmy award winning *Great Whales* and *The Sharks*. An interview with Ralph White, director of photography, motion pictures, for the 1985 expedition and director of submarine operations and deep underwater imaging for the 1987 expedition, provided additional information.

All of the egg dishes shown below were picked up and brought to the surface. In spite of their two and one-half mile fall to the botttom of the ocean, the dishes were intact.



photo/courtesy AP/Wide World Photos

JENNIFER'S DIVE

There are only three operational submersibles in the world capable of making dives deep enough (13,000 feet) to visit the *Titanic* where the pressure is 5,800 pounds per square inch. But, both Woods Hole's *Alvin* and the *Sea Cliff*, owned by the U.S. Navy, were unavailable. Thus, the '87 expedition leased the French submersible *Nautile*, along with its support vessel, *Nadir*, and an experienced French crew. The *Abeille Supporter* was used to store the artifacts recovered. About 50 people took part in the expedition. It was funded by a group of Americans headed by George Tulloch and known as Oceanic Research Explorations, Limited.

Although *Nautile* is oblong in shape, most of the vessel is just a shell containing electronics and other equipment. The three passenger compartment is a four inch thick titanium sphere.

Jennifer Carter, the first woman to set eyes on the *Titanic* since it sank, made her dive in *Nautile* during the first week of the seven week expedition. Since the *Nautile* is not heated and will be the same temperature as the water—34°F at the bottom—those inside must dress warmly. Jennifer wore several layers of clothing, including a wool sweater. All three crew members wore flameproof jumpsuits as their outer garments.

Unfortunately, on the surface before (and after) the dive with the hatch closed, the little sub becomes uncomfortably warm. First its passengers sweat, later they become very chilled. In addition, while awaiting the OK to descend or the tow back to *Nadir*, *Nautile* has a tendency to bob about on the surface. Her passengers always hope for calm seas so seasickness is avoided.

To conserve battery power, descents and ascents are made without lights: For almost all of its one and one-half hour journey to the *Titanic*, the *Nautile* traveled in total darkness. Jennifer says she felt like Alice in Wonderland, falling into a deep, dark hole. Alice was probably a lot more comfortable. Conditions are cramped in the sub. It is less than seven feet in diameter. Jennifer says that if she moved a few inches to the right she bumped against knobs. The pilot was less than 18 inches away on her left. While the co-pilot has a chair to sit in, the pilot and observer lie on their stomachs with their knees bent, peering through glass more than one foot thick in portholes less than five inches in diameter.

Upon arrival at the bottom, the sub's powerful lights are turned on. Jennifer was amazed at the clarity and the colors. She says the water was as clear as that in a swimming pool and the colors were a continuation of her Alice in Wonderland fantasy. Because it is so dark at 13,000 feet, visibility is only about 20 feet.

On Jennifer's dive, *Nautile* landed in the debris field. The bottom is a thin layer of fine sand, mixed with reddish rusticles, on top of hard mud. It is littered with *Titanic* artifacts: fine china, including pieces with the White Star logo and blue Meissen; silver plates; sterling silverware so shiny it looked as though "it just came from Tiffany's;" and intact crystal decanters and bowls.

On some dives, artifacts were brought to the surface in the small basket carried on the front of the sub. When the basket was full, it would be detached and sent to the surface. *Nautile* has arms fitted with a special suction tool that can pick up even the most delicate china, although this is a long and laborious undertaking. All of the egg dishes shown in this article were recovered, a process that required parts of four different dives and prompted crew members to call the '87 expedition the *Titanic* "eggs-pedition." Jennifer emphasizes that great care was taken in selecting and recovering artifacts. Everything brought up was first photographed in situ. Nothing was ever ripped off the *Titanic*. Larger artifacts, such as the telegraphs, were brought up in baskets dropped from the surface by the *Abeille*

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TITANIC

Supporter. These had pingers on them that allowed the sub to locate them on the bottom and *Nadir* to find them when they'd been sent to the surface.

During Jennifer's dive, a photographic mission, the sub traveled from the debris field to the stern of the *Titanic*. In the basket attached to its front, *Nautile* carried an ROV named *Robin*, that was used to photograph objects in the debris field as well as the port propeller (the *Titanic* had three giant screws).



Jean Louis wraps the bronze cherub in muslin. The statue has movable wings.

On the trip through the debris field, Jennifer saw a variety of marine life. The *Titanic*'s steam boilers were fueled by coal and the debris field contains tons of it. Many of the individual pieces looked like old fashioned feather pen sets: Growing off the top of a black lump of coal would be a single plume of pink gorgonian coral. There were the ubiquitous rattail fish. All of the life seen—with the exception of four inch long, blood red shrimp—was white. This included starfish about nine to ten inches in diameter. They looked like brittlestars, with small body discs and very long, slender arms. There were anemones, 6 to 12 inches in diameter, attached to things in the debris field. These had very long, slender tentacles. The all-white crabs, three to four inches long, "looked as if they'd been whitewashed," Jennifer told me. The crabs were almost translucent. The crabs and the shrimp had extraordinarily long antennae; two to three times as long as the bodies of the animals. Although these animals live in total darkness, Jennifer says they showed no reaction to light, leading to speculation (on my part) they may be blind. From Jennifer's description, it appears that the marine life she saw, with the exception of the red shrimp, is albino. The gorgonian fans (the most famous example is the one shown on a light fixture in the first class staircase, photographed in 1986) were also white.

The other two people who traveled with Jennifer to the bottom of the sea were nondiving Frenchmen, notably less enthused about the marine life she kept pointing out to them. Her dive lasted al-

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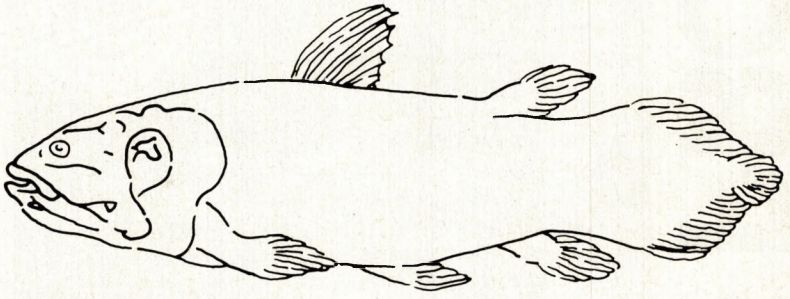
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most six hours, some of the dives were up to 12 hours long.



Ralph White and Jennifer Carter in front of the little French submersible, *Nautile*.

THE HOLE

Several interesting discoveries were made by the '87 expedition that shed new light on *Titanic*'s demise. This 882 foot long ship sank less than three hours after striking an iceberg and there has been intense speculation regarding the damage done to the hull. The impact was scarcely felt by those on board, yet 20 minutes later the captain knew his ship was going down and began preparing for that inevitability.



Ralph White with one of the ship's bells.

The '87 expedition found a huge hole in the *Titanic*'s starboard hull. Measuring 20 feet high by 40 feet wide, it is teardrop shaped according to Ralph White. He showed me a diagram of the ship with the hole sketched in. The bottom part includes the mail and specie rooms, the squash court and the first class baggage compartment. The top of the hole (I thought it resembled a shark tooth in shape) included some third class cabins.

While all of these would have been out of water when the ship left Southhampton, by the time it was fully loaded with passengers and cargo, the mail and specie rooms at the bottom of the hole would have been underwater. Just above them on G Deck, the squash court was awash only 20 minutes after the collision, according to accounts of survivors. Ralph says the hull plates around the hole are bowed outward. He believes this is because the *Titanic* was moving when it struck the iceberg, which pierced the hull



Jennifer holds a china plate with cobalt blue trim, recovered from the *Titanic*.

and was pulled out as the ship steamed on at a speed estimated to be 20½ knots. The ship was moving so fast the iceberg was seen only by the few who happened to be on deck during the collision.

Although some have speculated that a fire in a coal bunker caused an explosion



that blew the hole in the hull, Ralph points out that the hole is not next to a bunker.

The '87 expedition also found the stern to be a jumbled mass of twisted, almost unrecognizable wreckage. It is not intact.

Some survivors reported hearing an explosion as the ship sank. Most believed this was the noise made by the huge boilers breaking away from their fittings and crashing into and possibly through the hull. It is now known this did not occur. While safely aboard the *Carpathia* immediately after the disaster, John "Jack" Thayer, Jr., 17, drew a diagram that showed the *Titanic* breaking in two, with the bow sinking first and the stern pivoting and righting itself just before going down. Jack was only 40 yards from the ship when it sank. It is agreed the night was very dark and that most of the survivors had rowed their lifeboats a considerable distance from the *Titanic*. But, though he was much closer than most of the survivors, Thayer's account differed from that of the majority and was given little, if any, credence. Besides, the experts said it was highly unlikely the ship would have broken in two. From the way the wreck was found 73 years later, however, it would appear Thayer's account was remarkably accurate. Could the minority of survivors reporting an explosion have been right also? Why else would the stern be so destroyed?

THE TITANIC LIVES ON

Long after the *Titanic* has disintegrated and the last of her survivors is gone, she will live on in the minds of many. It is doubtful that all of her mysteries will ever be solved. Her disaster had a great impact on travel at sea. The Coast Guard was originally formed as an iceberg patrol to prevent a tragedy such as the *Titanic* from happening again. Also, ships today must have a space in a lifeboat and a lifejacket for every person aboard. The lifejackets have lights on them and are checked at regular intervals to make sure they work. Lifeboat drills are held at sea to acquaint shipboard passengers with the procedures for loading should an emergency arise. A wireless operator must be on duty on ships of a certain size 24 hours a day. It is generally believed that if there had been a wireless operator on duty on the *Californian* most, if not all, of the *Titanic*'s passengers and crew could have been saved.



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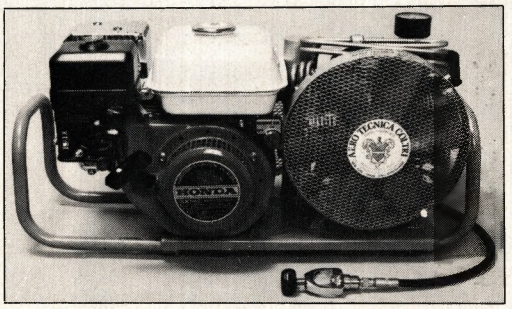


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BONNE TERRE

(Continued from Page 35)

pioneers. Cathy has also persuaded a candlemaker and a blacksmith to return to the mine village. Other country crafts will be stocked at the general store.

Arriving divers check in at the dive shop by the mine entrance. After presenting your C-card and logbook you will meet your guide and safety diver. Large groups divide into teams of eight based on skill levels. Two staff divers escort each team. You can't help noticing that all the staff has an upbeat and helpful attitude. It's infectious. The guides are definitely not rookies. The director of t guides, Carl Rogers, for example, has logged more than 1,200 dives in the mine! To become eligible to join the staff you must participate in an extensive pro development program that includes assisting with three basic, two advanced and one rescue scuba class and log more than 100 dives as a mine safety diver within six months.

You don't need a dive light; Doug Goergens' staff has installed quartz and high pressure sodium lamps throughout the entire diving area. Don't bring your tanks; the staff has plenty of full ones at the water's edge waiting for you. The company maintains three air compressors. Any one of these units could do the job by itself, but in typical West End Diving Centers fashion they have provided much more than the minimum required, (no wonder they have had a steadily growing business for the last 26 years).

In addition to the air compressors, 5,000 cubic feet of storage supply the subterranean dock filling station. Bones commands the dock. He oversees the scheduling of dive parties so that there's never a crowd. Almost 9,000 divers toured the mine last year. Since the operation is only open three days each week, Bones had his hands full coordinating the flow of guests. Although there may be more than 60 divers enjoying the mine on the same day, your small party of eight may be the only group on the dock at any given moment.

Consistency is guaranteed at the Billion Gallon Lake Resort. What are some ideal water characteristics? How about a water surface as flat as mirror? There are no currents, tidal rushes or surge. It may be raining or snowing outside but inside the mine it is always fair, with the thermometer reading 62°F in the air and 58°F in the water. Visibility ranges from the average of 80 to more than 150 feet in places such as the Lake Room.

At present there are 17 trails you can tour. Repeat visitors never have to see the same territory. Most of the trails include at least one ore cart full of tools and artifacts recovered by the staff. Articles include ore samples, tools, archaic hats and old lunch pails left behind when the

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order came to shut down the mine.

When the mine was dry, ground water percolated through the bedrock and made unusual deposits on the walls. You can now swim past creamy white walls called Cal Falls or inspect odd black, green and blue streaks left by various trace metals. In undisturbed areas, rust has formed dripping "rustcicles" from the old bolts embedded in the walls. You might glide past the scaffolding that once supported miners while they worked the walls 40 or 60 feet above the floor. On Trail One, try to lift a jackhammer left behind when the mine closed. Trial Two's Keyhole, a small oblong opening cut by the miners as a shortcut between working areas of the mine, frames buddy teams for portraits perfectly. At The Structure on Trail Four you explore the massive ore elevator that rises 50 feet above the water's surface to the rock ceiling. Returning guests may sign up for a scooter tour that ventures into the Lake Room where the water clarity reaches 150 feet. For a view that combines the dreamlike quality of the underwater lighting with the massive scale of the mine, be sure to look through the Opera Window or cruise through the area known as Carlsbad.

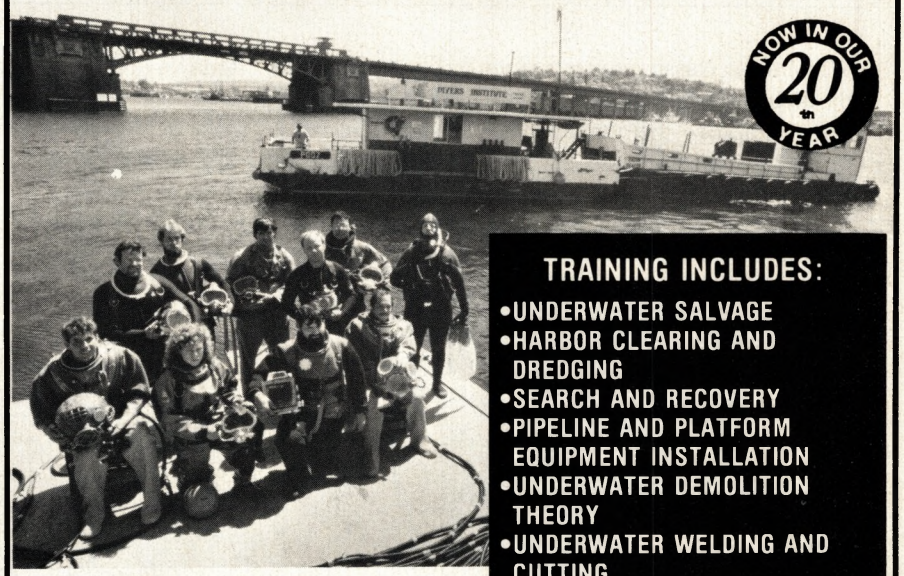
To make your weekend getaway even more enticing, West End Diving offers two different types of accommodations. The newly refurbished Deep Earth Divers Lodge stands right on the mine property. Groups of as many as 24 often rent the six bedroom guesthouse. In the lodge's lounge you will find a selection of board games, magazines and a card table, in addition to the color TV. There's even a wetsuit storage area.

As it was during the height of the lead mining days, the mansion on the hill is once again the area's showpiece. Doug and Cathy Goergens acquired the 133 acre estate and set out to produce a hotel that gives visitors gourmet food, turn of the century ambiance with a nautical flair and warm hospitality. The Goergens hand picked each element, from the wooden sleigh beds in one room to the steamer chest off an old English cruise ship in the library. Cathy's attention to detail has earned the Mansion Hill Country Inn acceptance by the local population as well as recommendations by regional restaurant and hotel guides and recognition from many national publications. As at the mine, the Mansion Hill staff greatly enhances the inn experience. The staff is just as adept at providing discreet service to a quiet couple in the dining room as it is at accommodating a boisterous group on the veranda.

Since all the food is made to order and from scratch, you can expect a leisurely dinner lasting from 45 minutes to an hour. Start your meal with homemade bread and soups such as cheese and tomato or an appetizer such as Cajun styled shrimp quiche. Sometime during your stay you

(Continued on Page 161)

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Classics

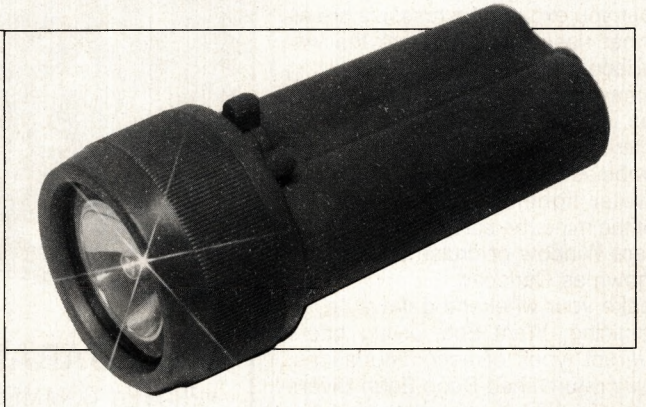
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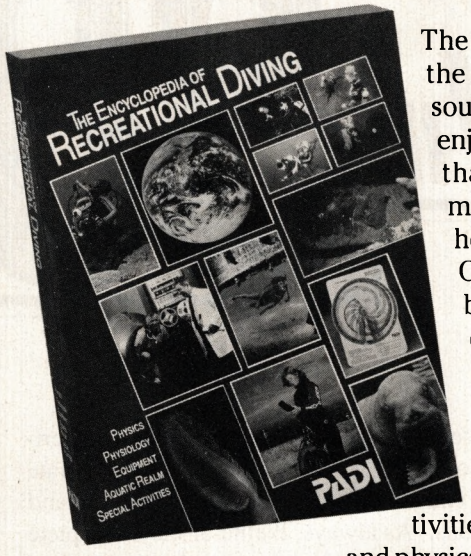
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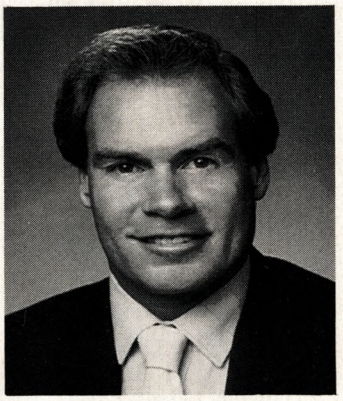
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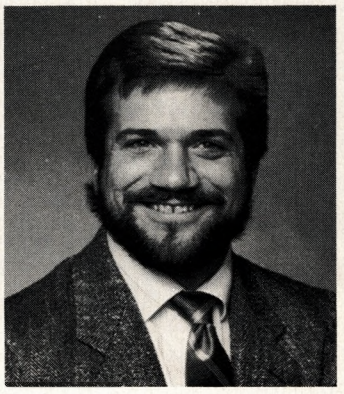
STATE ZIP

DACOR PEOPLE

Dacor Corporation has appointed Jerry Warner Florida district sales manager. In this new responsibility he will be consolidating all Florida sales under his direction and will be relocating to Florida.



Warner has been diving for 29 years and has been with Dacor for 25. His various capacities have included traffic manager, manager of customer service, inside and outside sales managing in the Midwest and Western Florida, and sales manager. Through the years, Warner has been influential in the development of many new products. He is a wreck diver and underwater photographer.



Mike Martin has been appointed midstates district sales manager. Martin will be covering Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Colorado and New Mexico.

In his years at Dacor Corporation, he has been service and repair department manager, gauge production manager and, most recently, manager of regulator production. Martin has also taught service clinics for the past six years and has been involved in research field testing of regulator designs.

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DACOR GEAR BAGS

BY JIM WALKER

Whether you want to carry a little or a lot, and whether you want to carry it on a dive boat, on an airplane or backpack it to the beach, one of Dacor's three attractive black and shiny-gray gear bags should fill the bill nicely. All are made of rugged 420 denier nylon with a PVC coating inside for added durability. All feature double sewn seams and reinforced stress points and all incorporate several special features, including sewn-on nametag slots with waterproof inserts. The two larger bags also have distinctive red and white dive flag graphics.

Backpack Equipment Bag: Whether you want to carry this spacious bag by its handles or wear it as a backpack, it can probably carry more than you will want it to. With an interior measuring 24 x 16 x

(Continued on Page 52)

Dacor's black and shiny-gray bags suit a variety of gear-carrying situations. The larger bags can be worn as backpacks.

photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

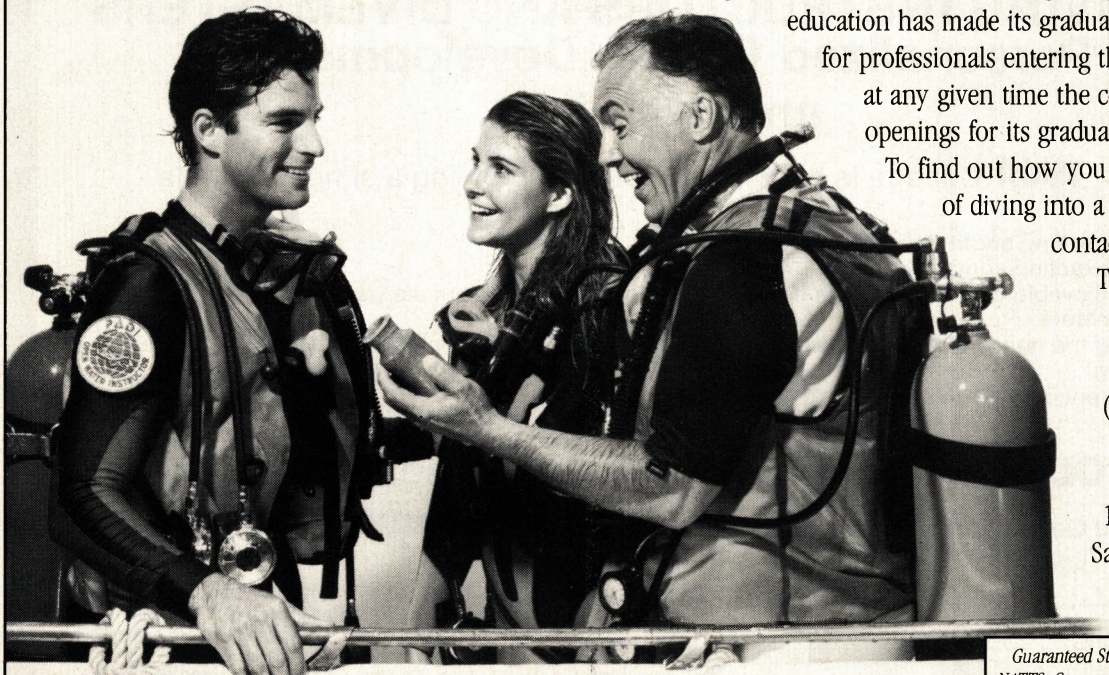


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Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS



A number of things crossed the Technifacts desk during recent weeks that are of interest to sport divers:

Danny W. Midgett, 211 Kings Road, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee 37122, wrote, "Thank you for helping me find other readers who are interested in the old Sea Hunt TV series. However, my address in Technifacts read TX instead of TN. Can you correct the address.? We have done so above. Sorry, Danny.

BOATERS SUCKED UNDER DAM

Technifacts has warned divers about diving or operating boats near either the upstream or downstream sides of dams. In early 1987 at Lake Talquin Dam in Florida, two of three boaters were drowned when their small boat was sucked under the dam when flood gates were opened to clear trash from the penstocks. The third man saved his life by jumping out of the sinking boat and grabbing a concrete wall. Divers and boat operators should remain well clear of both sides of a dam and of any systems associated with locking vessels through the dams.

SAFETY VIDEOTAPES

Four safety videotapes have been produced by the Vessel Safety Program of the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association (NPFVOA). While they are designed for safe operation of fishing vessels, much of the information is applicable to safe dive boat operation. They are $24 each or $96 for the set. Subjects include Safety Equipment and Survival Procedures, Fire Prevention and Control, Medical Emergencies at Sea and Fishing Vessel Stability. The first three listed will prove most useful for medium to large dive boat operations. Contact NPFVOA Safety Program, Building C-3, Room 207, Fishermen's Terminal, Seattle, WA 98199; (206) 283-0861.

NOAA CHART PRICES

Todd Henvelmans, De Pere, Wisconsin, wrote, "In your October 1987 Technifacts, the prices for charts pertinent to the article were good only until October 1, 1987. An updated price list is enclosed." Thanks Todd. A Department of Commerce notice stated that as a result of legislation, effective October 1, 1987, the list prices of NOS nautical charts will be: Conventional Charts, $12.25; Conventional (waterproof), $13.25; Small Craft Folio, $12.25; Small Craft Routes,

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$12.25; Small Craft Area, $12.25; Bathymetric (including OZALIDS), $4; Recreational Craft Charts of the Great Lakes (except #14786), $12.25; Recreational Chart of Great Lakes, Chart No. 14786, $22; Canoe Charts, $4; Coast Pilots (of all areas), $16.50; Tide Tables, $6.75 each; Tidal Current Tables, $5.50 each; Tidal Current Charts, $4; Tidal Current Diagrams, $2.75 each. For more complete information on publications in your area write directly to United States Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, Distribution Branch, Riverside, Maryland 20737.

A CORONER'S REPORT

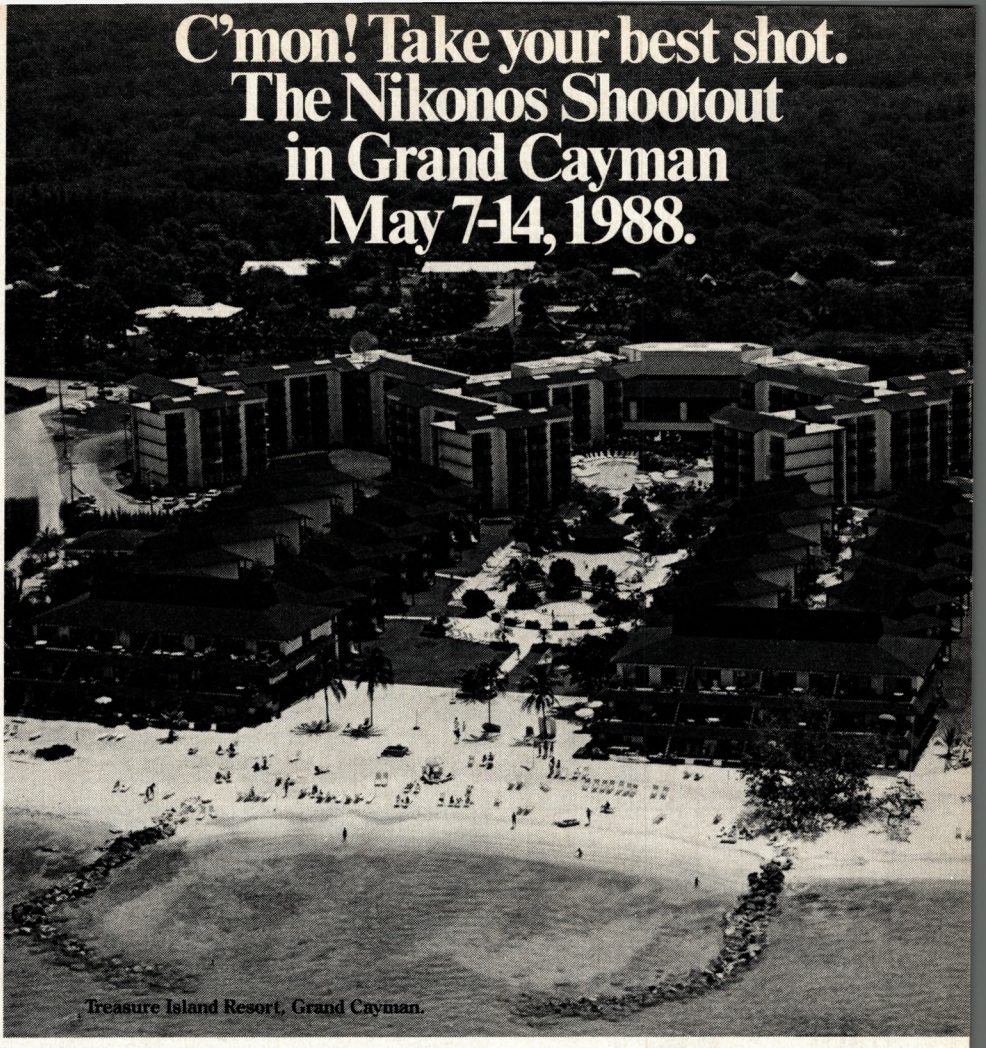
Excerpts from a Canadian coroner's report are quoted as a warning to sport divers against undertaking commercial diving jobs without adequate training as well as a warning to know your equipment and your employer before engaging in underwater work.

"The diver was a 19 year old man living in Port Orchard, Washington, United States of America. On the 15th of September he undertook his first commercial dive to collect seafood from the ocean floor off Vendovi Island in the Rosario Strait in the American waters of the San Juan group of Islands. Unfamiliar with his diving equipment, personnel and under hazardous diving conditions, he experienced fatal difficulties on his fourth dive of the day." The autopsy report also stated, "The diving gear used consisted of an air compressor on the deck of the boat pumping compressed air through 520 feet of air hose down to the second stage regulator held by the diver's mouthpiece. The divers were supposed to be working in pairs but were often separated by as much as 50 feet. Since visibility was about 10 feet, the diver was virtually diving alone in violation of good diving safety codes. There was no communication with the surface. The deceased diver was wearing an ordinary scuba facemask, a drysuit and a lot of lead weight to keep him on the bottom."

As a second diver surfaced he noted the deceased floating motionless at a depth of approximately 45 feet. In spite of rescue efforts involving the boat crew, the United States Coast Guard, the Canadian Fleet Diving Unit at Colwood, British Columbia and Provincial Ambulance crews, the diver was later pronounced dead at Victoria General Hospital. The autopsy report continued, "An autopsy conducted by a pathologist at Victoria General Hospital indicated death was owing to cerebral air embolism."

The coroner recommended that a copy of his report be sent to SKIN DIVER Magazine because, in his opinion, "This magazine is widely read by sport divers and may educate them to take training in seafood harvesting diving prior to embarking on a commercial career. It is my firm belief that these young, inexperienced div-

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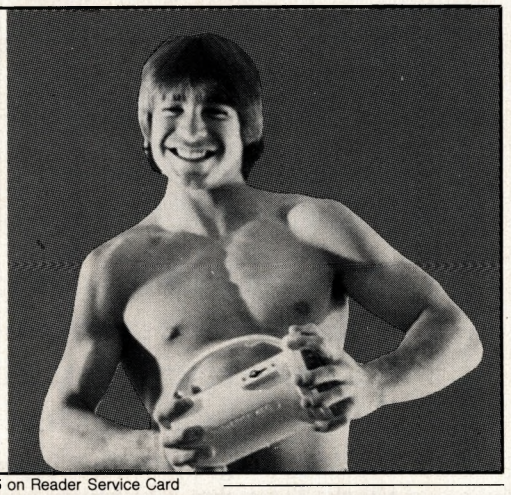
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TECHNIFACTS

ers are lured into a situation that is dangerous because of their lack of training and experience in the equipment."

MANNED SUBMERSIBLES

Technifacts reader Tim Kelly, Saltsburg, Pennsylvania wrote "I'll get right to the point. Are there any commercial schools that teach pilot training for commercial manned submersibles?" Can readers help with the name of a training organization? Most submersibles are operated by personnel who have worked for several years as an assistant with the system and finally graduate to pilot status. If the submersible carries passengers for hire both the vessel and pilot will have to be licensed by the Coast Guard.

DIVING SCHOOL UPDATE

Reputable commercial diving schools are constantly updating their courses to meet the needs of the diving industry. Three schools have recently announced changes in their training programs.

COLLEGE OF OCEANEERING

Jim Joiner, president of the College of Oceaneering, wrote: "It is now official; the College of Oceaneering has been acquired by United Educational Softwear (UES), a large vocational educational enterprise with training schools all over the U.S. I will continue to serve as president and our goals and objectives will be basically the same. All of the staff will remain the same. One of the major values of the acquisition will be to give the college the financial stability to grow and develop additional, state-of-the-art, marine technology training programs."

In addition to conventional diving training programs the College of Oceaneering features courses in the application of one atmosphere diving suits (ADS)—such as Jim, Wasp, etc.—to deep work; a non-destructive testing (NDT) program that can lead to industry certification; and pilot training for the remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) that are being used so frequently in several marine industries.

Regarding Technifacts questions, Jim wrote, "I have researched the ADS question as you requested. There does not seem to be anything except routine work in progress at present. There is nothing new to report as to depth, time or tasks. With respect to the offshore industry, there seems to be a continual need for skilled diving personnel to perform inspections. New divers are hired who are specifically trained in this field and who can be certified by a recognized certification agency. Divers must be recertified every two years.

For complete information write to College of Oceaneering, 272 South Fries Av-

enue, Wilmington, CA 90744-6399 or call (213) 834-2501.

DIVERS INSTITUTE

In mid-1987, Divers Institute of Technology entered its 20th year of operation. In an interview with John Ritter, president/director of the institute, he told me, "Divers Institute strives to make changes according to the demands of the industry. We feel the addition of our new welding/burning facility will only be one of many changes that will benefit the DIT student body and students in DIT's future."

Another newly organized and implemented course at DIT is entitled Advanced Diving Technology. The objectives of this course are to qualify remotely operated vehicle (ROV) technician/operators and non-destructive testing (NDT) technician/operators. Both of these skills represent an expanding trend in the diving industry for the inspection and maintenance of offshore structures.

Major elements in the program will include training in electronics, hydraulics, pneumatics, remotely operated vehicles, various kinds of non-destructive testing and video and still photography as used in the diving industry. The course will also provide intensive training in the production of reports on the findings of inspections and tests.

To be accepted for this advanced training a prospective student must be a high school graduate and a graduate of a recognized commercial diving school. Entrance examinations will be given on diving physics, math and mechanical aptitude and the applicant must demonstrate verbal and writing skills.

For complete information on all classes write to Divers Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 70667, Seattle, WA 98107 or call (206) 783-5542.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Highline Community College's diving technician program is one of only two, two year college programs leading to qualification as a diving technician. Maurice Talbot, diving technician department coordinator, has announced a new one year course to be given at Highline. This will cover training in all of the occupational skills that are part of the full, two year course. Only the academic programs will be eliminated.

The marine technology subjects that will be covered in the one year course will include diving orientation, fundamentals of work diving, seamanship and safety and maintenance of diving systems. Students will also become familiar with salvage and ship construction, diving with bell systems, underwater welding and burning, and mixed gas and saturation systems.

There is a definite place and need in the diving industry for two year course

(Continued on Page 121)

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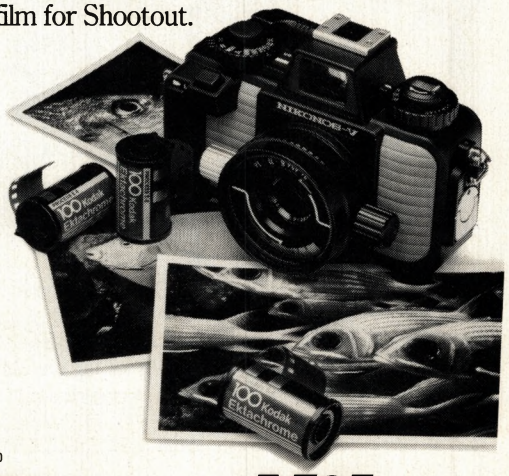


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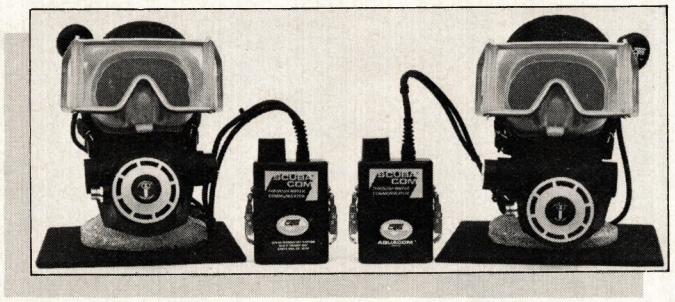
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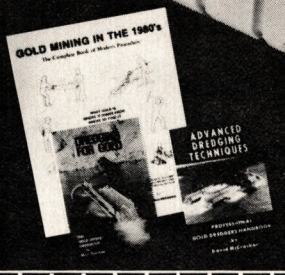
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DACOR GEAR BAGS

(Continued from Page 47)

9 inches, this bag has nylon webbing carrying handles on the top and one side plus two padded, adjustable, quick release shoulder straps on the front. There are adjustable tension straps at the top and bottom of the bag to snug up on whatever size load you want to carry. You can also attach such gear as a sleeping bag under these.

The main chamber of the bag closes



The Backpack Equipment Bag has adjustable padded shoulder straps that can be tucked inside a pocket when not needed.

with a heavy duty, double tab plastic zipper and features padding on both the front (near the wearer's back) and back. This chamber also has drain grommets at the bottom and a sewn-in key clip.

There are two side pockets that run the length of the bag and each closes with a double tab zipper. These are perfect for carrying fins. Each is drained by a grommet and has a sewn-on plastic D-ring for attaching such things as polespears.



The Deluxe Three Pocket Equipment Bag has a zippered dry pocket at one end.

There is a thin, zipper closing pocket that covers the entire front surface of the bag. The shoulder straps can be tucked into this pocket when they might cause a tangling problem—such as during airline transport. Two sewn-on webbing loops on the outside bottom of this pocket could accommodate a speagun.

The back of the bag has two 12 x 15

x 4 inch pockets sewn on. Both close with double tab zippers. The top pocket has a Velcro closing document-size pocket on the outside and the bottom one is padded on all sides. This padding will protect delicate gear and can serve as insulation if you're carrying beverages.

The Backpack Equipment Bag retails for $99.95.

Deluxe Three Pocket Equipment Bag: This is another spacious bag, with interior dimensions of 28 x 12 x 12 inches. It has large nylon webbing carrying handles that wrap around the entire bag for support. There are four plastic D-rings attached strategically on its upper surface. Two adjustable padded shoulder straps clip onto these D-rings so the bag can be carried as a backpack or, using one strap, carried over the shoulder. The D-rings also come in handy for attaching gear such as spearguns.

The interior of the bag is accessed through a heavy duty, double tab plastic zipper and vented by four grommets on its upper surface. It has a sewn-in key clip. There are two large, zipper closing pockets on the outside of the bag. One runs the full length and height of the bag and is three inches deep. It is drained by two grommets. The other pocket covers one end of the bag and is also three inches deep. A special feature of this bag is the dry pocket. This is basically a zipper opening near the bottom of the bag at the opposite end from the storage pocket. Through this opening, you access a waterproof nylon liner that covers the floor of the bag interior. You can keep a change of clothes dry here.



The Tote Bag is completely padded and features an adjustable shoulder strap.

The Deluxe Three Pocket Equipment Bag retails for $69.

Tote Bag: This little bag is perfect for camera gear or as carry-on luggage for airline flights. Its zipper accessed interior is padded on all sides and measures 13 x 11 x 4 inches. There is a key clip sewn inside as well.

There is a zipper closing outer pocket measuring 13 x 8 x 2 inches and an adjustable nylon webbing shoulder strap. The Tote Bag retails for $29.

To decide which bag or bags is right for you, check them out at your Dacor dealer. For the address of the dealer nearest you contact Dacor Corporation, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, IL; (312) 446-9555.

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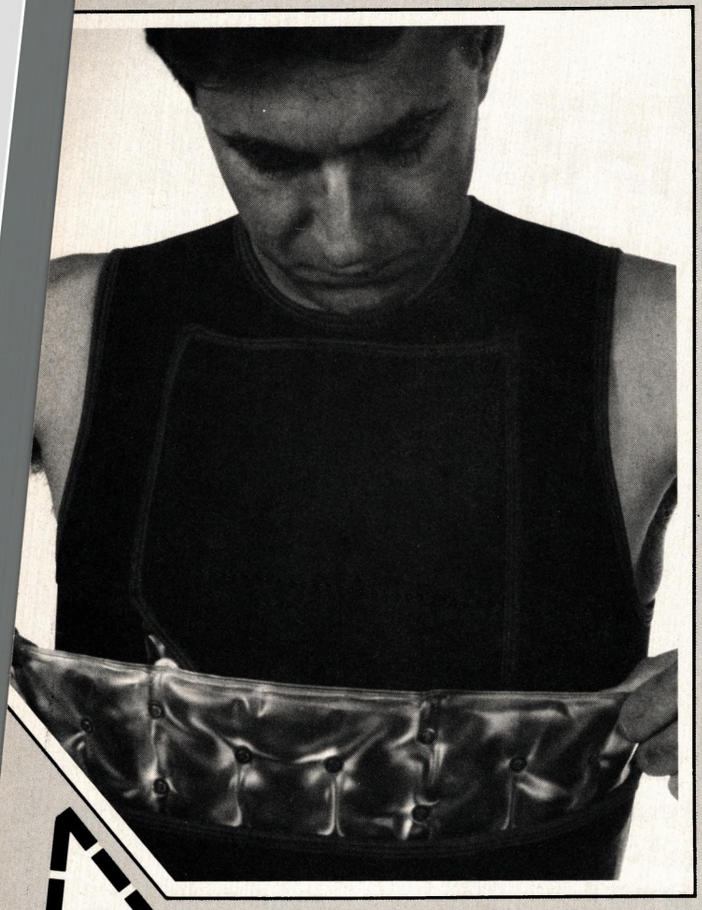


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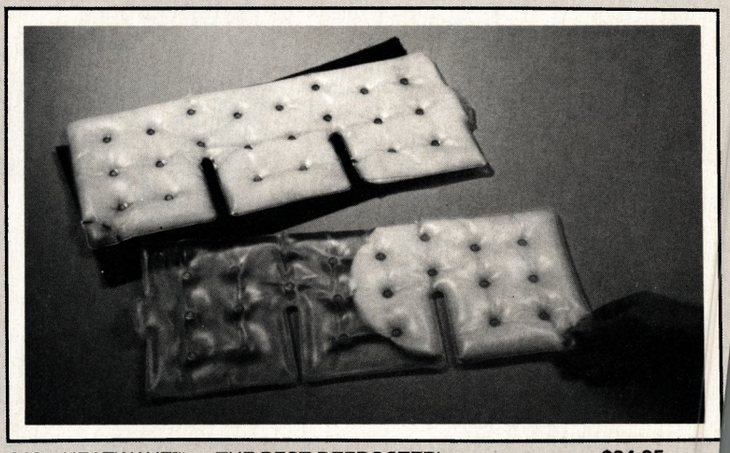
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OUR WORLD-UW

The 18th annual Our World-Underwater will be held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago, April 22-24. On Friday night there will be a meet the speakers cocktail party in the exhibit area and a mini-film show featuring Al Giddings and his newest production, *Ocean Symphonies*. On Saturday evening there will be a film festival featuring Giddings, Stan Waterman, Emory Kristoff and Frank Fennell. Waterman will show his film on Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands); Kristoff, of National Geographic, will present *Sea Monsters* and *Dream World of David Doubilet*; and Frank Fennell's film is entitled *The Phillippines*.

The rest of the weekend features seminars on: underwater sciences, diving medicine, wreck diving archaeology, travel, underwater photography, instruction, exploration and marine ecology. In-depth workshops are planned and include: visual tank inspection, underwater video, a Nikon underwater photography workshop, diver rescue and emergency oxygen administration and field management of scuba accidents.

Nondivers are welcome to explore the exciting displays of new and innovative underwater equipment beginning Saturday, April 23. They will also be treated to introductory films on diving and told where to find out more on getting involved in this exciting underwater activity. The pool will be available Friday and Saturday for the nondiving public to get a taste of diving free. Pool work will be done by national certifying agencies.

The key function of Our World-Underwater is to raise funds for the scholarship program. Recipients have an opportunity to experience and be hosted by people at diving research centers, commercial diving centers, etc., which helps to send them on their way to chosen careers in the diving world.

For further information on accommodations, please write or call the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, (312) 696-1234 (ask for convention rates). For further information on the program, write OWU, P.O. Box 4428, Chicago, IL 60680 or call (312) 427-5676.

BRONZE EDGE

Orca Industries, manufacturer of the Edge and SkinnyDipper dive computers, has issued a commemorative bronze Edge in celebration of the building of the 10,000th Edge computer. Only 50 handcrafted bronze commemoratives will be made. This solid, polished bronze instrument will include a lifetime warranty, special display case, engraving and all the latest features. For more information contact Orca Industries, Inc., 10 Airport Way, Toughkenamon, PA 19374; (215) 268-3164.



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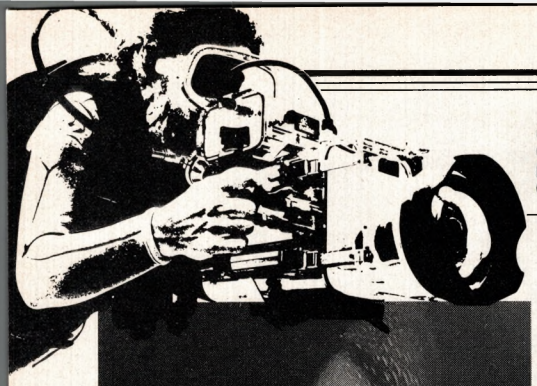
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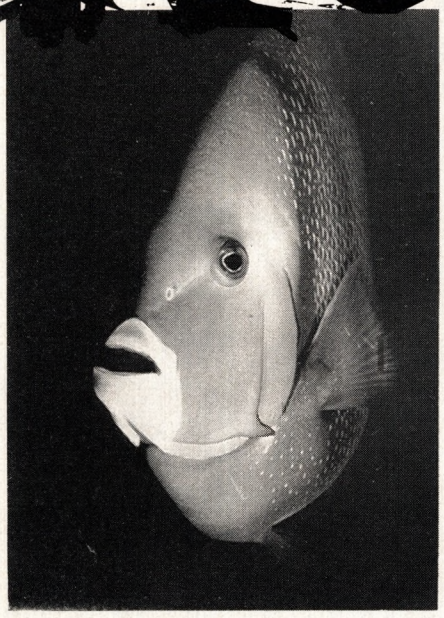
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SDM'S U/W Video Course

The Production Video Shoot

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM AND CATHY CHURCH

Let's assume you are shooting an underwater video that tells a specific story and shows a variety of action sequences and events. Your dive club, for example, may wish to document an exotic trip or you may wish to create a demo tape to promote travel or a particular destination. This isn't a casual "point and shoot" production—you want a structured, edited story.

THE STORY LINE

The story line, however simple or complex, leads the viewer from one scene to another in a logical manner. In our last video lesson, the story line was simple: Two divers discovered a sunken tugboat, then were awed when the *Atlantis* (a commercial sightseeing submarine) glided by. We had control over the situation because we knew exactly where the tug was, had a private boat (courtesy of Sunset Divers, Grand Cayman) and knew when the submarine would come by so its passengers could view the wreck.

A simple story, especially when you can control conditions, as above, and when only a few people are involved, can be easy to shoot. But if your story is complex and several people are involved, you must plan carefully.

DEFINE RESPONSIBILITIES

You must define the roles and responsibilities of all the people involved: Who will formulate the story line? Who directs the positioning of the actors topside and underwater? Who will be the camera persons? Who will be the actors? Who will keep track of continuity?

A group of people working together to produce a video movie will stumble over each other and arguments can arise if responsibilities aren't established in the beginning. Decisions can be made by the entire group, but you need an organized approach to implement them. Specific responsibilities may shift from person to person as you face different shooting situations; if so, make this clear.

THE DIVE SCHEDULE

If you are diving from a day boat or a live-aboard, get the dive schedule ahead of time. If the captain simply drops you on a new site for each dive—with only a minimal, last-minute briefing—shooting a smooth-flowing U/W video movie will be difficult if you have a complicated story line. In this situation, bite the bullet and simplify the story.

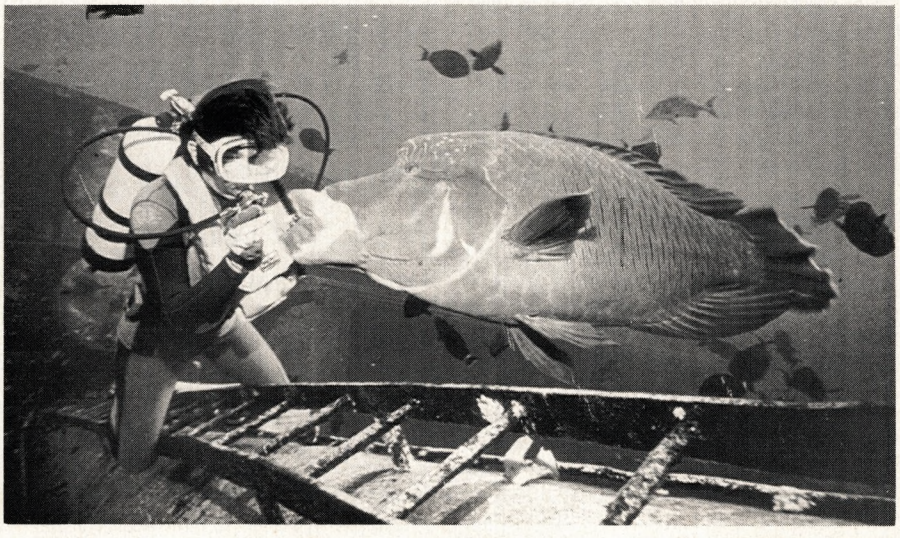
Ideally, you need to know ahead of time—as accurately as can be predicted—where you will dive each day of your stay. What are the strongest features of each site? What will be the depths and water conditions? Can you repeat specific sites if you need more shots or a reshoot? For best results, your group should charter the entire boat and agree with the captain about the dive schedule ahead of time.

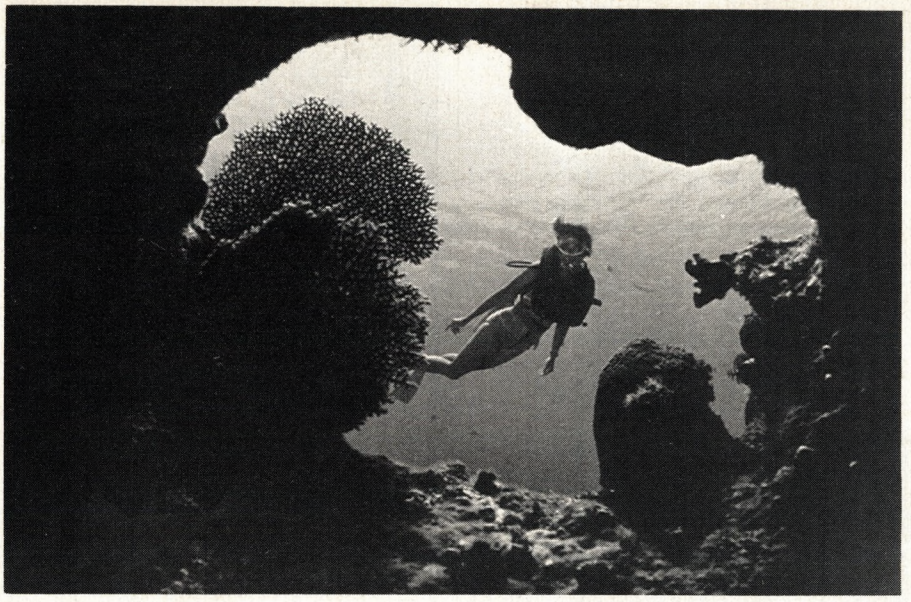
DIVERS AND ACTORS

If everyone on the dive boat is participating in or at least interested in your video movie, you are in luck. Many times, divers who aren't part of your video production will accidentally swim into your scene, freeze, stare at the camera and then swim frantically away. If you can shoot your scenes when these divers are elsewhere, great, but often, you must tolerate some interference. Tell non-modeling divers that if they accidentally get in front of your camera, they should swim out of the picture in a natural manner.

If non-participating divers insist on watching you work, ask them to stay at least ten feet behind you. While they may agree ahead of time, this technique often breaks down underwater. For example, Jim wanted to film a sequence showing another U/W videographer shooting an octopus being held by the videographer's dive buddy. It was at night, the bottom was fine sand and several other divers wanted to observe us at work. No sooner had Jim taken his LS (long-distance shot) and glided in for the MS (medium-distance shot), than we were surrounded by excited, sand-kicking divers whose faces, fins, hands and dive lights kept getting into the picture. After about ten minutes of shooting (to satisfy their curiosity), Jim turned off his video light to indicate the shoot was over. The observers waved goodbye and swam away. But the octopus shoot wasn't over: Mike Mesgle-

Top: Fish close-ups make good cut-aways to punctuate long scenes. These might come midway through the story. Below: Some food can make a fish into an actor in your video.





Look for unusual camera angles, such as this view through a hole in a piece of wreckage on the *Balboa* in Grand Cayman waters. This could be used as a closing shot.

MAKING A STORYBOARD

A storyboard is a series of sketches showing each shot. Cartoon strips in newspapers resemble storyboards because they convey their message with a series of pictures and minimal copy. Storyboarding is an effective way to brief a group. If you make your sketches on 5 x 7 inch cards, you can shuffle the cards around as you make changes and can write your notes on the backs. Record whatever information you need, such as the designations LS, MS, CU, establishing shot, transition shot or resolving shot. Narration can also be included. If you use a notebook with several sketches on each page, your notes tend to get messy when you make changes. The complexity of the storyboard depends on the complexity of your video movie and the number of persons involved. Some videographers begin with a shot list and then make only those sketches necessary to describe the scenes to others.

ski, who was holding the octopus, read Jim's mind. Jim, Mike and Julie Jordon (the modeling U/W videographer) swam to an undisturbed area and reshot the octopus. We treated the first shoot as our dress rehearsal.

THE SHOT LIST

If you wish to shoot more than two or three scenes, or views of a scene, put it in writing. Use a dive slate or attach the shoot list to the back or side of the U/W video camera with white plastic tape and a black laundry marker. A sample shot list is as follows:

1. LS: Diver approaches eel's lair
2. MS: Diver looks at eel
3. CU: Close-up of eel's face
4. CU: Cut-away to diver's face
5. MS: Diver looking at eel
6. LS: Diver swims out of frame

If you wish to redo any particular shot, simply point to it on the list, or hold up the number of fingers that indicate the shot you wish.

HOW TO REHEARSE

With the shot list in hand, you can rehearse many scenes topside. For example, we wanted to show two divers using an U/W communication device, one wearing the transmitter, the other, the receiver. Because this would be a tight shot showing the two divers facing each other, we worked out the basic distances and angles on deck. We found the two actors must be closer together than they would normally be topside and that they should be angled slightly to partially face the camera rather than look directly at each other. And, most important of all, we had them rehearse the statements the diver with the communicator would make and the nods and gestures the diver with the receiver would respond with.

Underwater rehearsals are sometimes necessary. If the scene requires the actor to react to, or be aligned with, an U/W object, we have the actors look at the overall scene through the camera viewfinder so they have some idea of the picture area. Once they have a feeling for size perspective, they do a better job.

For complex actions that can be repeated, shoot a dry run (without the camera recording). Watch the action through the viewfinder so you can see what camera angles are best and what instructions to give your actors. This may involve letting one or more actors take a look through the viewfinder. Then, when the actors know what to do, shoot the scene.

SHOOTING THE ACTION

Imagine this action sequence: Six divers swim into frame from around a large coral ledge. They turn gracefully and swim into the entrance of a large tunnel. After the last diver enters the tunnel, the scene changes to an overlap. The camera (which records the viewer's viewpoint) is now inside the tunnel as the divers swim over, around and past it. The sequence ends with a LS of the divers swimming out the rear of the tunnel and out of frame.

Because the tape could be edited later and we wanted a smooth sequence, we shot each part three times. The shoot went as follows:

1. Knowing that repeated passes through the tunnel would stir up the sand, Jim shot Scene 2 (the overlap in the tunnel) first. Mike would gather the actors outside of the entrance, just out of sight of the camera. When ready, he would look inside and give Jim a wave to signal that the action would start in about ten seconds. Jim would hold the camera steady, turn it on and shoot the divers entering the picture area from right to left and passing around him.

2. Scene 1 (the entry) was next. Mike gathered the actors just out of the camera's view, signaled Jim and then led the group into the scene—from left to right to match the directional continuity of Scene 2—and then into the tunnel.

3. Scene 3 (the exit) was easy. The divers exited through a vertical opening, through clouds of silvery bubbles, and swam out of frame. Jim shot this scene with the group exiting both left to right and right to left. Thus, the editor would have a choice of directional continuity between this and the following scene.

MAINTAIN CONTINUITY

As you plan your scenes, remember continuity: Whatever gear a diver wears at the beginning of a related sequence of scenes should also be worn at the ending scene, even if the beginning and ending scenes are shot on different days. And, if for example, one diver follows another for a brief swim through a short tunnel, he should still be following when both divers exit the tunnel. Inexperienced actor/models often overlook continuity of equipment and placement. They frequently change gloves or add or remove dive knives and dive computers. Therefore, if several persons are involved in your video, someone must assume the role of continuity director.

REPEAT IMPORTANT SHOTS

Whenever possible, Jim likes to shoot each important scene several times. With the three scene sequence of the divers

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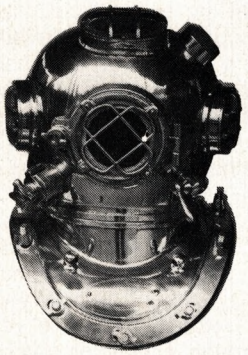
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VIDEO COURSE

swimming through the tunnel (above), Jim shot Scenes 1 and 2 three times and Scene 3 four times (two for each exiting direction. In one entry scene the divers were too spread out and the scene was too long. In another, one diver stared at the camera. During the overlap scene, one diver kicked Jim and caused camera movement. And, on the exit, Jim wanted shots of both left and right exits.



No matter how well you plan your video shoot, you must hold the camera steady.

The key point is that the more shots you take of any action, the more good scenes you will have to edit later. Another tip is to turn the camera a few seconds before the action starts and let it run a few seconds after the action ends. Thus, the editor can edit into or out of a scene at any time.

PRETRIP PLANNING

Ideally, it would be nice to have a complete storyboard and shot list made prior to your trip, but this isn't always possible. You should, however, have a general plan you can modify and augment on location. If you have specific actors/models selected ahead of time, make sure you check the condition of their dive gear before the trip. Old, tattered wetsuits and obsolete gear won't enhance your video.

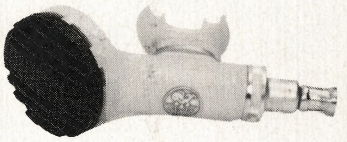
Also, be prepared for equipment breakdowns. Bring as much backup gear as possible, including batteries, chargers, O-rings and extra videotapes. A well-stocked toolbox may save the day!

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

Each sequence should have a beginning and an ending. For example, we wanted to show a sequence of Mike feeding and playing with some large stingrays. To begin the sequence, Jim aimed the camera low at a coral head adorned with soft corals. Then, when Mike had lured a ray to the other side, Jim raised the camera for an introductory LS. Now the scene was established, Jim could move in for his MS and CU (close-up) shots of Mike and the rays. To end the

(Continued on Page 168)

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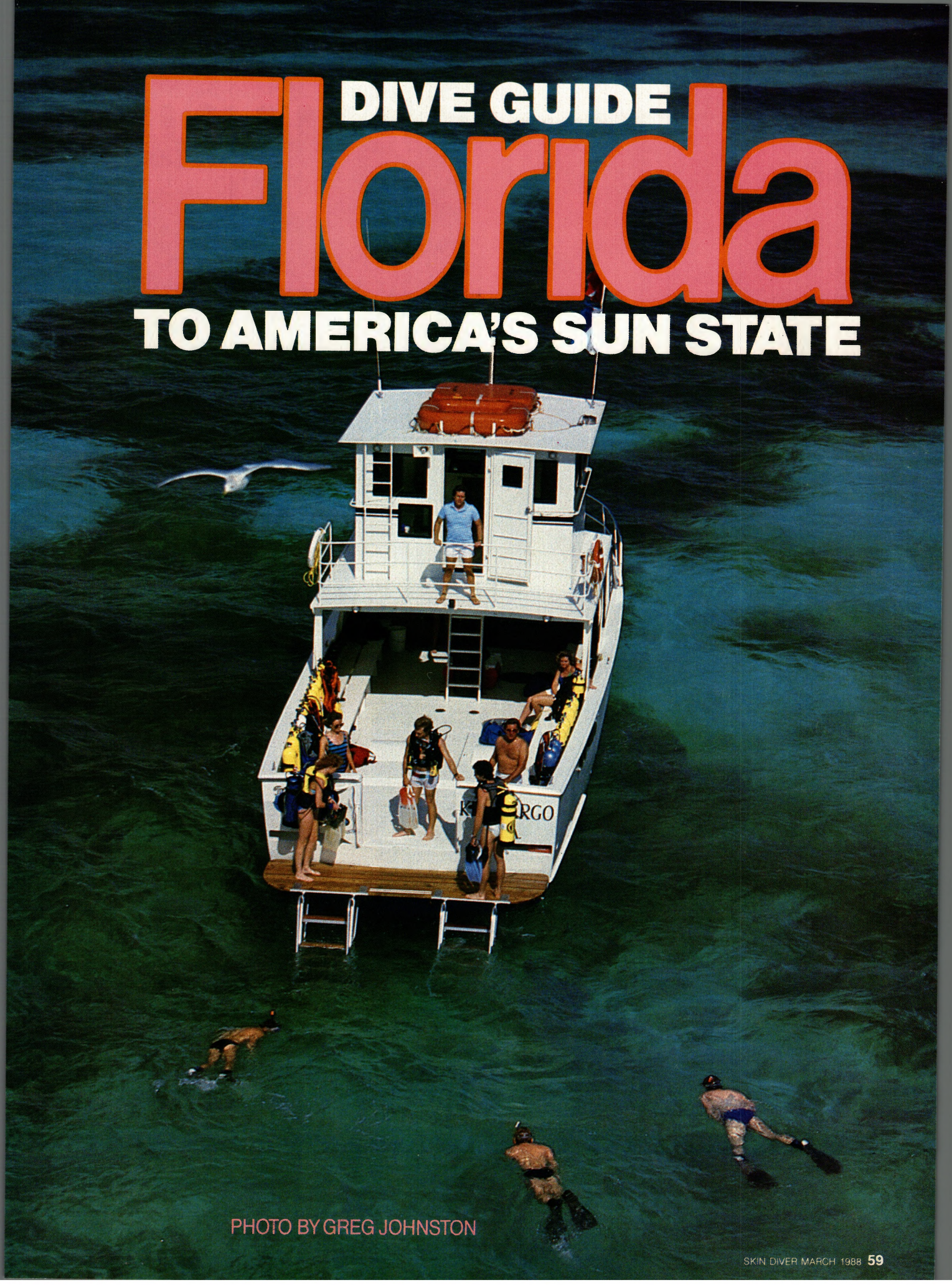
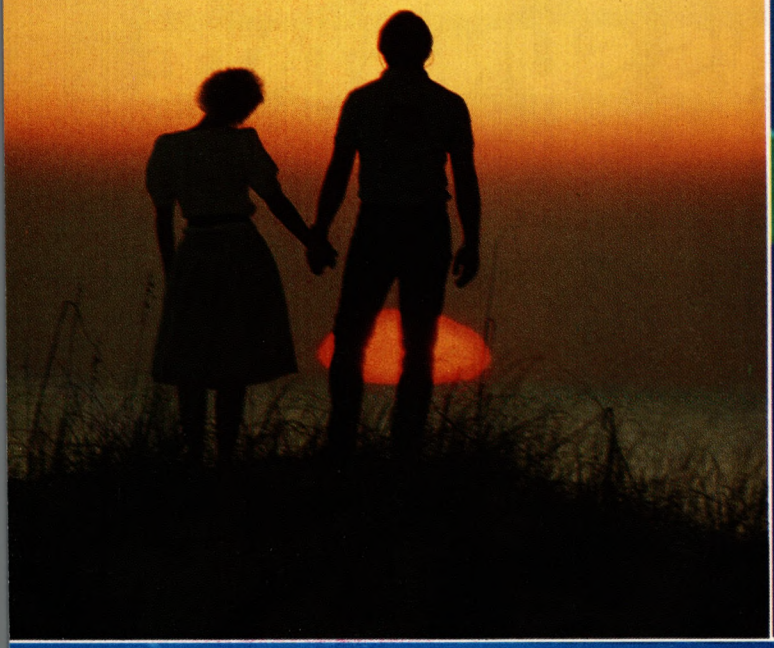
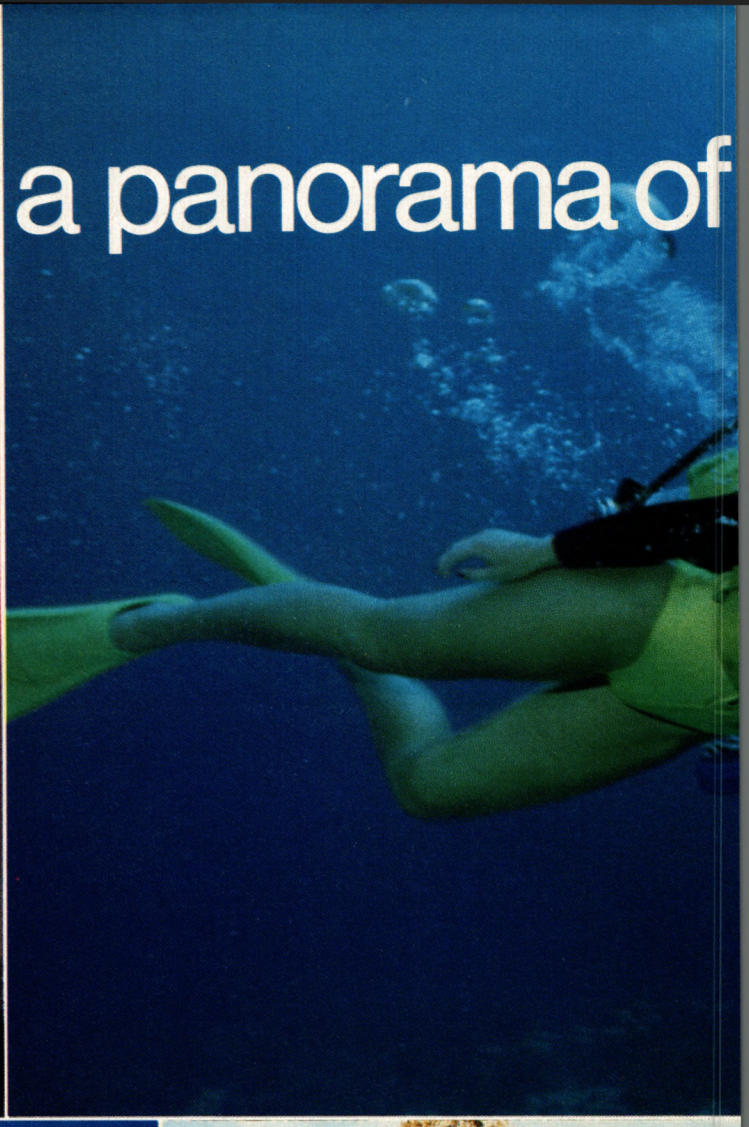
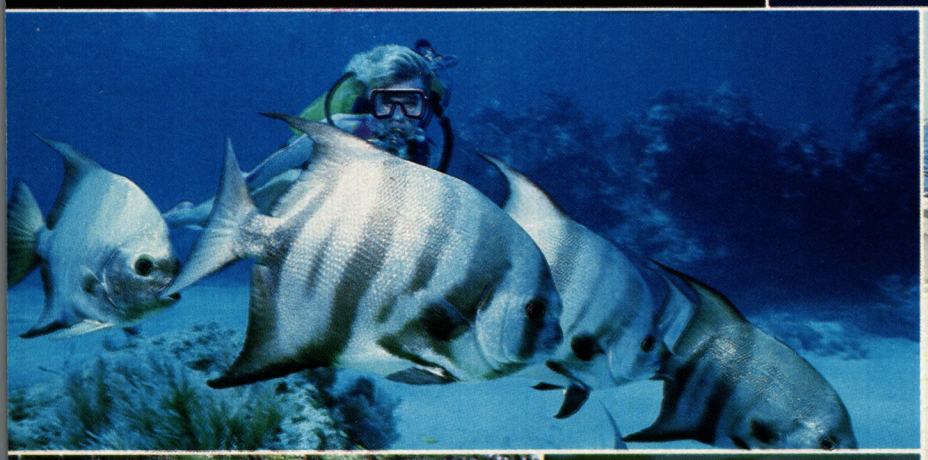


PHOTO BY GREG JOHNSTON

Florida a panorama of









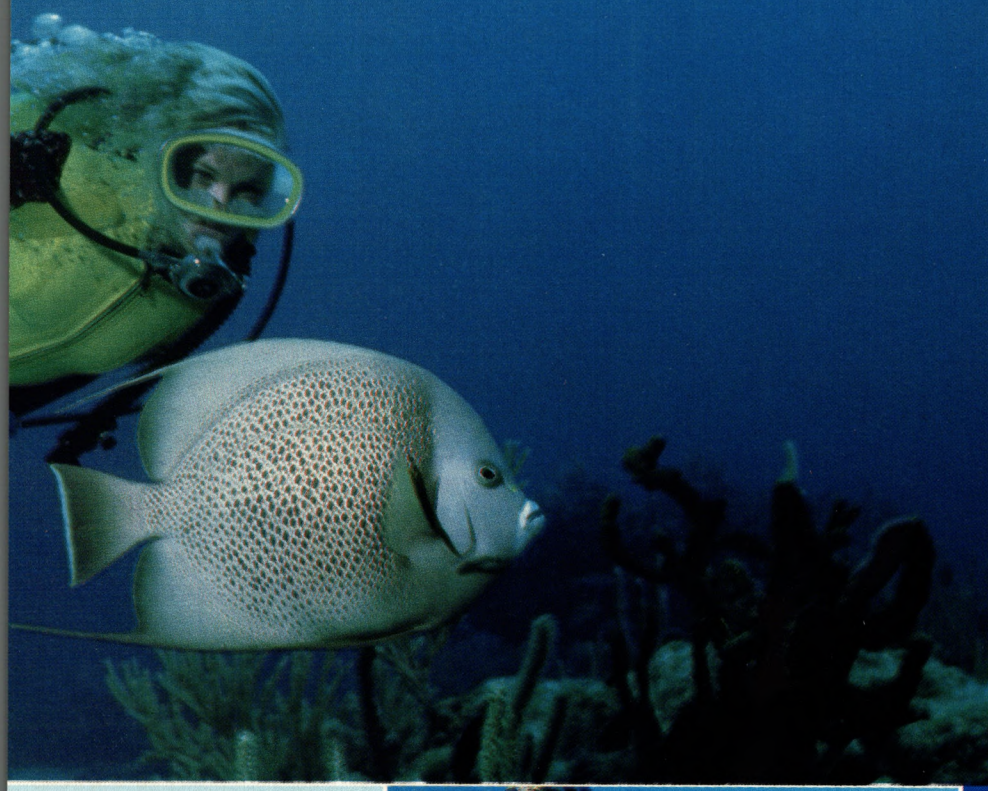




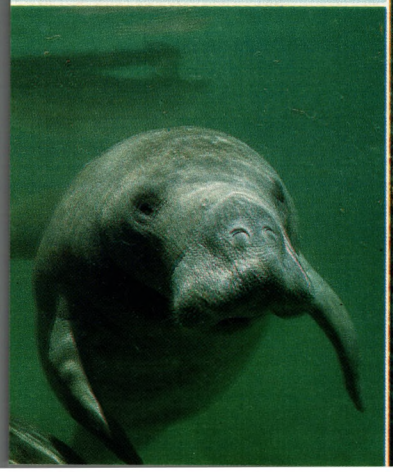
The Sunshine State offers the visiting diver tropical coral reefs, deep ocean wrecks, freshwater spings and back country rivers. Top left: A romantic Panhandle sunset. Clockwise from above left: Atlantic spadefish over Molasses Reef; Key Largo dive boat; a dolphin at the Keys Marine Theater; the crystal clear waters of Ginnie Spring.

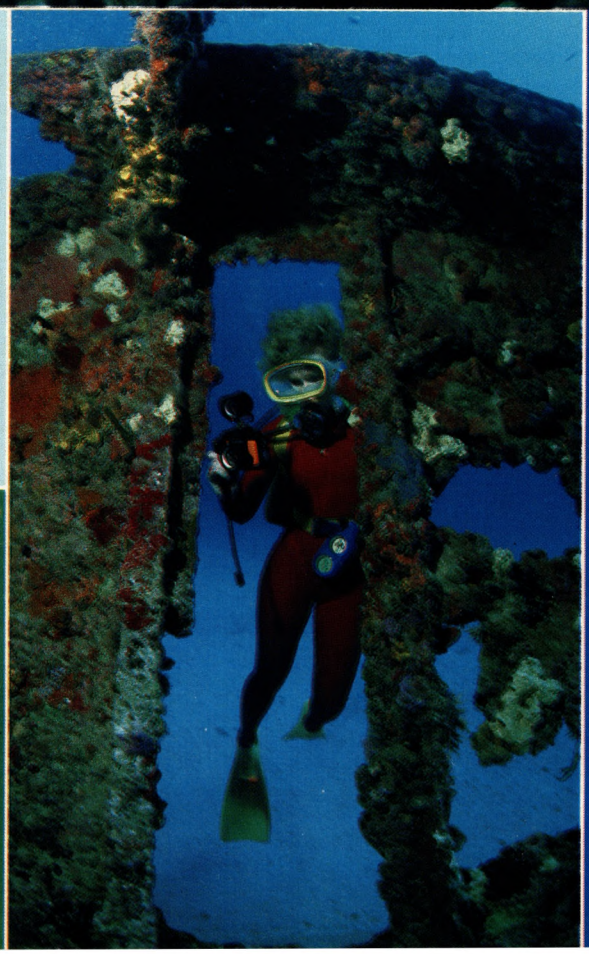
diving adventures

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON



Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, nudged by the fertile Gulf Stream, with more than 8,000 miles of shoreline plus inland waterways, Florida could be nicknamed Divers' Dreamland USA. The experiences available both above and underwater are almost limitless. Top: A diver follows a gray angelfish off Ft. Lauderdale. Right: The Biscayne Wreck off Key Biscayne. Below: A friendly manatee at Crystal River.





The Sunshine State has often been referred to as Vacationland USA—and for good reasons. The many theme parks and natural attractions make Florida one of the premier destinations for vacationing families. Divers know the state equally as well. It could easily have been nicknamed Divers' Dreamland USA, offering opportunities to experience tropical coral reefs, deep ocean wrecks, freshwater springs and back country rivers.

If you take a moment to consider the shape of the Florida peninsula, it is easy to see why diving is so popular. Looking much like a large finger pointing toward Cuba, it is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on its east coast and Gulf of Mexico on its west coast. The Florida shoreline is the longest of any state in the union, measuring about 1,197 miles. If you were to include all the off-lying islands—the Florida Keys—and measure around all the bays, the Florida waterline would total about 8,426 miles. The mean land elevation is about 100 feet, with most of the state at sea level. Numerous bays and inlets indent the gulf coast of Florida, providing excellent harbors and refuge for exotic birds and marine animals. The most outstanding feature of its Atlantic east coast is the nearly unbroken string of islands that form the intracoastal waterway. These barrier islands extend southward from the middle of the state, scattering across the blue-green waters of Florida bay, forming the Florida Keys.

There was a time, however, when Florida was much different—a time when great toothed mammoths trampled the dense jungle and giant sharks roamed the offshore reefs. As the geological forces that created present day Florida began to evolve, the ocean receded and the offshore reefs died. The corals left behind their calcareous exoskeletons and, soon, vegetation formed. Today, much of present day Florida is actually an ancient seabed. Evidence of fossilized animals can be found throughout the state, including the prehistoric jaw bones and huge shark teeth still discovered in many of the central Florida rivers.

The first known European to have visited the southeast peninsula was Spanish navigator Juan Ponce de Leon. Ponce de Leon, then governor of Puerto Rico, made landfall near present day Jacksonville in March 1513. In recognition of the luxuriant vegetation, the Spanish explorer named his discovery *La Florida*. For two months, Ponce de

Florida

Leon sailed along both coasts of Florida in search of the legendary fountain of youth. Determined to colonize the new land, he returned to Spain to receive royal sanction and support. For the next 300 years the land known as Florida changed hands many times, belonging to Spain, France and England before finally being sold to the United States. It became a state in 1845.

In the early 1900s Florida began to prosper as a vacation and resort destination. Even today, as Florida develops as the perfect vacation getaway, the natural resources and the diverse beauty attract more than one-half million divers annually. And, with so much coastline, Florida provides enough adventure for both the novice and the well seasoned diver.

EMERALD COAST

Florida's Emerald Coast, named for the color of the Gulf of Mexico, is one area of Florida diving that is often overlooked. Owing to the shape of the state, this extension along the northern coast of the gulf is called the Panhandle. From Pensacola to Fort Walton and Destin, on to Panama City and Port St. Joe, there are reefs, wrecks and lots of fish. The coastline between Destin and Panama City is one of the most seductive beaches in Florida. There are miles of secluded snowy white sand beaches backed by rolling dunes overgrown with sea oats that sway gently in the breeze.

The Panhandle offers one of the more exciting dive areas found in the state. Not long ago, while on an assignment in Destin, I had one of the most thrilling adventures of my life. We encountered a giant Atlantic manta ray in shallow water. For nearly an hour we played with and photographed it. Swimming alongside and riding its massive back, we cleaned the small parasites from around its mouth. The beast seemed quite appreciative of our gestures.

In depths shallow enough for a novice, on out to sites that require advanced diving skills, ancient limestone reefs are staggered like a giant stairway into the depths of the gulf. Large basket and barrel sponges sit alone in sandy patches while schools of baitfish swarm in freestyle unison with unending movements. The reefs are low in profile, but are an ideal habitat for fish and invertebrates. It is not uncommon to find 15 pound hog snappers and large groupers that hide under rocky ledges. Fifty pound amberjacks regularly cruise the offshore reefs and wrecks.

Florida's Panhandle seems best suited for the underwater hunter. With so many miles of open water, relatively little commercial fishing and a level bottom that descends gradually out to more than 20 miles from shore, it provides an exceptional location for game fish. The Florida spiny lobster flourishes in these emerald waters. Five pound lobsters are considered small by those who hunt them regularly. Eight to ten pounders are more of the norm, while the occasional 15 pounder is not uncommon.

Near Pensacola there are some very exciting shipwrecks. The **USS *Massachusetts***, in 30 feet of water, is more than 350 feet long and can be seen from the surface at low tide. Farther out a **Russian Freighter**, sunk by a German U-boat during World War II, is popular for collecting spiny oysters. In 80 feet of water, the freighter is a favorite Pensacola dive site. Another popular wreck, known as the **Brass Wreck**, sank in the 1800s. The former schooner's beams and ribs are scattered at 100 foot depths.

Out of the East Pass between Destin and Fort Walton Beach are natural reefs that come close to shore. Some are patches of coral outcroppings, others parallel the coast for miles. There are several artificial reef sites, a Liberty Ship, the remains of an old intracoastal bridge, an oil drilling platform, several barges and a 130 foot long transport airplane. All have healthy populations of tropical fish including barracudas, amberjacks, schooling snappers and large groupers.

Many of the more popular dive sites are in the 80-100 foot depth range, making careful use of the no decompression tables mandatory. Others are much shallower and more suitable for divers beginning to develop their ocean diving skills.

Perhaps the most thrilling reef site is known as **Timberholes**. Staggered like theater seats at a depth of 105 feet, Timberholes has several dramatic coral tiers that rise more than 15 feet from the sand. Numerous other reefs such as **Amberjack Rock**, **Long Reef**, **The Eighteens**, **Frangista**, **Four Anchors** and **Red and White Hill** are equally as exciting. All have dense populations of cigarfish, barracudas and playful angelfish. For the underwater collector, these reefs all have an overabundance of beautiful shells such as shiny cowries, queen helmets and horse conchs.

Destin and Fort Walton Beach are sleepy towns turned tourist and resort destinations. Called the "playground" during the busy tourist season, the beaches are alive with sunbathers and watersports enthusiasts. Condominiums and major hotel chains have popped out of once barren beaches while the bays and harbors are lined with party boats and sailboats.

East of Destin and just north of Panama City are at least a dozen freshwater springs that offer divers a variety of activities. The **Chipola River** is an interesting site for treasure hunters. Near Interstate 10, the river is exceptionally clear and offers rewards of Civil War artifacts. **Morrison Spring** is near the Choctawatchee River and is surrounded by tall cypress trees dripping with Spanish moss. The spring contains two cavern openings—one at 30 feet, the other at 50. Either cavern is safe to explore and neither can be penetrated beyond the natural light that flows into the caverns. Camping and diving facilities are available, making this spring popular.

Vortex Spring is a completely self-contained freshwater dive resort. The facilities include camping, dormitory and dive center. Approximately 200 feet wide, the spring reaches a depth of about 50 feet. The cavern can be penetrated to the natural light zone, beyond that it becomes a long cave system. The spring is equipped with a large dive platform placed in shallow water, which provides an excellent staging area.

The Panama City through Port St. Joe area is best described as a wreck diver's delight. Though there are some very pretty natural reef systems, there are more than 20 known wrecks that include ships and planes. Some of these sites include historical wrecks, others include purposely sunk vessels. A local dive guide book includes such wrecks as the ***Grey Ghost***. A 105 foot tugboat sunk as an artificial reef, it sits upright in 100 feet of water. Other wrecks include the ***Chickasaw***, in 70 feet of water with an open framework above deck. It is home to jewfish and other game fish.

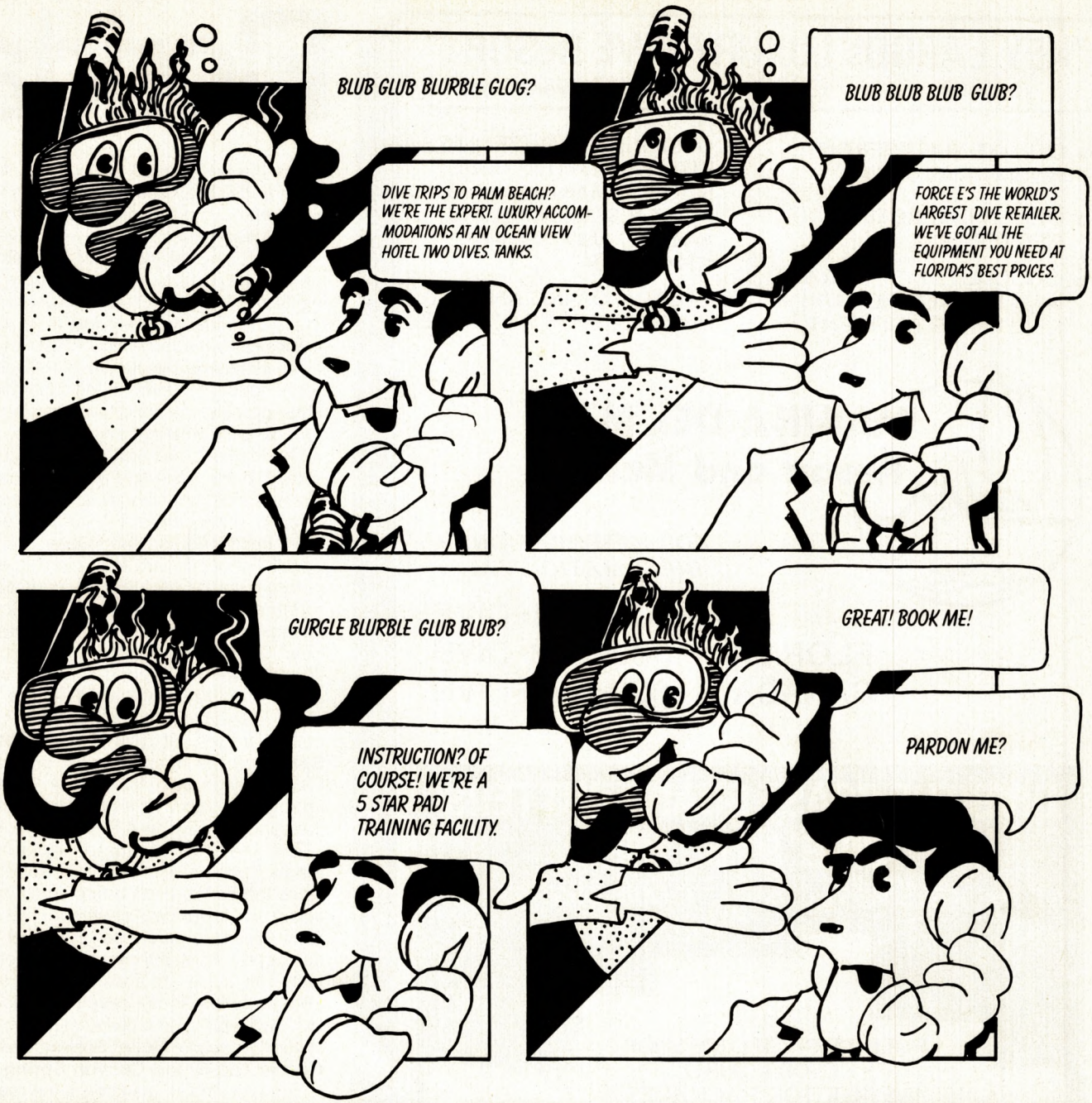
Without question, the most famous of all Panhandle dive sites is the ***Empire Mica***. A British tanker, she was on the return leg of her maiden voyage when attacked by a German U-boat. On June 29, 1942 two torpedoes ripped through her side and the ensuing explosion brought an eerie glow to the still of the night. The *Empire Mica* sank in 100 feet of water, 21 miles from Appalachicola. Today, the ship is encrusted with heavy marine growth, although portholes and hatches are still easily recognizable. A massive school of barracudas shrouds the bow, while a constant parade of marine tropicals dances along her decks. Larger oceanics also cruise over her.

Other wrecks, such as the ***Simpson***, ***Tarpon*** and ***Leroy***, yield diving treasures. Vintage beer bottles, ship's lanterns, cups and brass valves can be found by watchful divers.

SPRINGS

A dive vacation wouldn't be quite complete without a visit to the freshwater springs in Central Florida. If you follow Interstate 10 east, intersect at I-75, then head south, you will discover a truly unique aspect of Florida diving.

The Florida springs are part of a geological phenomenon known as the Ocala Uplift. The north central area of the state is a natural maze of springs, sinkholes and rivers. The natural pressure of ground water flowing down from the mountains of the southeastern states



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drives the water table through the limestone beds. The force of the water's flow has formed natural pipelines, through which these underground rivers travel.

The process of the water permeating the underground aquifer and then working its way into the subterranean rivers filters it to a clarity rarely found in North America. As the labyrinth of fast flowing conduits strikes the harder limestone of north Florida, the force of the super clean water propels it upward, undermining the surface at its weakest point.

The caves, caverns and grottoes formed in the open springs are some of nature's most spectacular and easily accessible diving areas in Florida. Sometimes described as "see forever diving," visibility exceeds 200 feet and it is easy to forget you are actually underwater.

Perhaps the best known of the Florida springs are those found at **Crystal River**. Near U.S. 19 on Florida's west coast, Crystal River is equipped to handle virtually any number of divers. There are many fine restaurants, hotels and an excellent variety of dive shops. **King's Spring** is the most popular dive site. Easy to reach by renting a john boat or arranging a tour with a local dive shop—the spring is alive with bass and mullet.

The shallow river that flows around King's Spring is less than five feet deep, while the spring itself drops vertically to about 30 feet. Two cavern entrances allow divers to safely swim 50 feet into the cavern to a maximum depth of 60 feet. The sunlit entrances can be seen from anywhere in the cavern. In addition to King's Spring, fine diving can be found in such places as **Mullet Spring**, **Catfish Corner** and **Grand Canyon Spring**.

The West Indian manatee is the reason Crystal River is so popular. The manatee, an inhabitant of the river during the winter months, is a slow moving mammal that swims just below the surface. Seeking the warm, 72°F year-round water temperature found in all the springs, the animal is in danger of becoming extinct. Every year there are more reported deaths of manatees, caused by propellers of fast moving boats striking them.

As an endangered species, manatees are protected by federal law. Certain sections of the Crystal River are designated sanctuaries. Visitors are prohibited from harassing, chasing and/or molesting them. Though manatees have no fear of divers, divers are not allowed to enter these areas from November 15 to March 31. It's best to check with local authorities for dive areas and the best way to observe these puppy dog like mammals.

Near Dunnellon, north of Crystal River, the **Rainbow River's** headwaters perco-

late through the bottom. The sand literally boils from the upward force of water through the porous rock. The river, a long and shallow run, has recently been closed to divers. However, swimming and snorkeling are permitted. The Rainbow River has been the location for many commercial underwater photo sessions, owing to its remarkable 300 foot visibility. It is still fun to snorkel with the slow current over the thick eelgrass and through the shallow lily pads. Fish seem to be suspended in water so clear it is difficult to imagine. You can float above sunken logs and rocks in which turtles, lunker bass, gar and other freshwater fish live.

Near Branford, the Suwannee, Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers offer numerous divable springs. The springs and rivers offer divers the opportunity to explore historical Civil War sites and hunt for Indian artifacts. The rivers of North Florida are also popular because they contain fossils of prehistoric animals such as mastodons, mammoths and giant sloths. There are huge shark teeth as well.

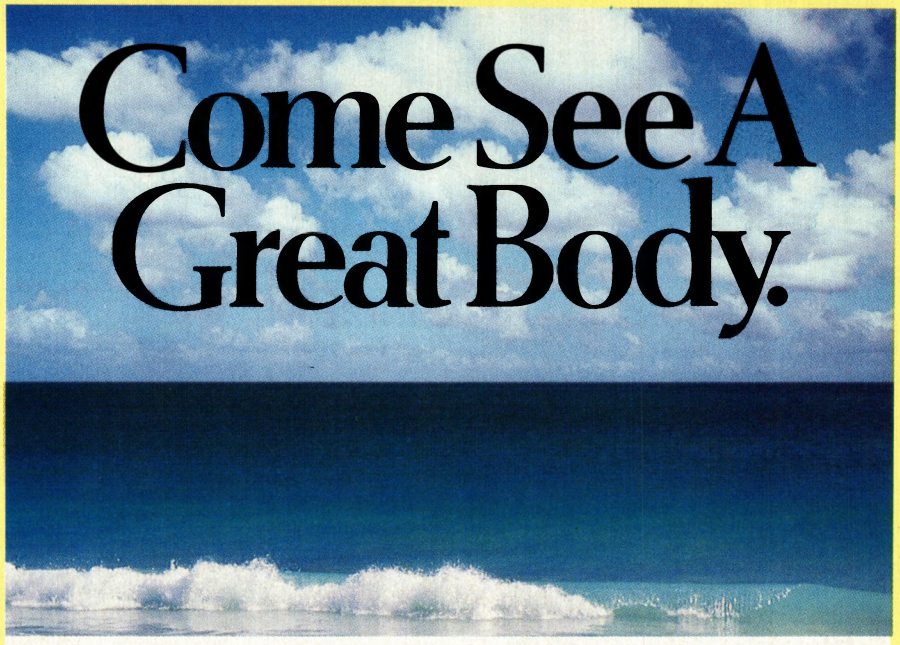
Springs near Branford provide a safe environment with plenty of open water. Some include **Royal**, **Yana**, **Peacock**, **Troy** and **Orange Grove**. Most have caves that are not supervised. Penetration of these without proper training should be avoided.

The open basins are filled with suspended fish that make good photo props. The **Ichetucknee River** is popular with divers and nondivers alike. The main activity is tubing and on a summer weekend it is not uncommon to find thousands of people floating lazily down the river on rented inner tubes.

Among the more popular springs between the Ichetucknee River and Interstate 75 near High Springs **Ginnie Springs** is the most popular. A permanent guideline allows even the novice to safely penetrate the cavern to a depth of 60 feet before terminating the descent at a sealed cave entrance. Upon reaching the end, you will find yourself in the Cathedral. A huge room, it is 78 feet long, 72 feet wide and 38 feet high. At this point, you are more than 100 feet from the cave's entrance. Near Ginnie Springs are two cavern openings that lead to a single cave system of unknown range. The **Devil's Eye** and **Devil's Ear** are for trained cave divers only.

The mere word "cave" suggests adventure and intrigue. Since 1960 more than 200 divers have lost their lives in cave diving accidents. While this number seems small compared to the great numbers of divers who enjoy the sport, *cave diving should not be attempted by anyone who is not a certified cave diver.*

No previous open water experience can adequately prepare you for cave diving. Regardless of experience, those who lost their lives were not trained in proper cave diving techniques. There are no shortcuts to safe cave diving. Sound judgement, the use of common sense,



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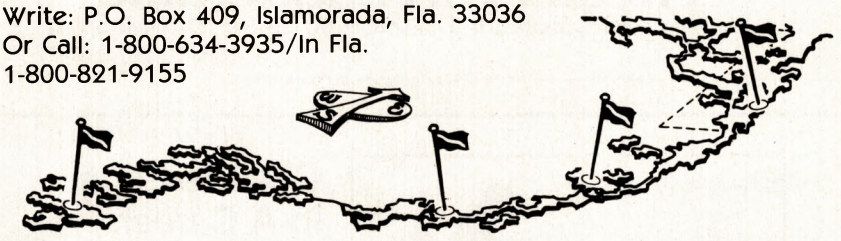
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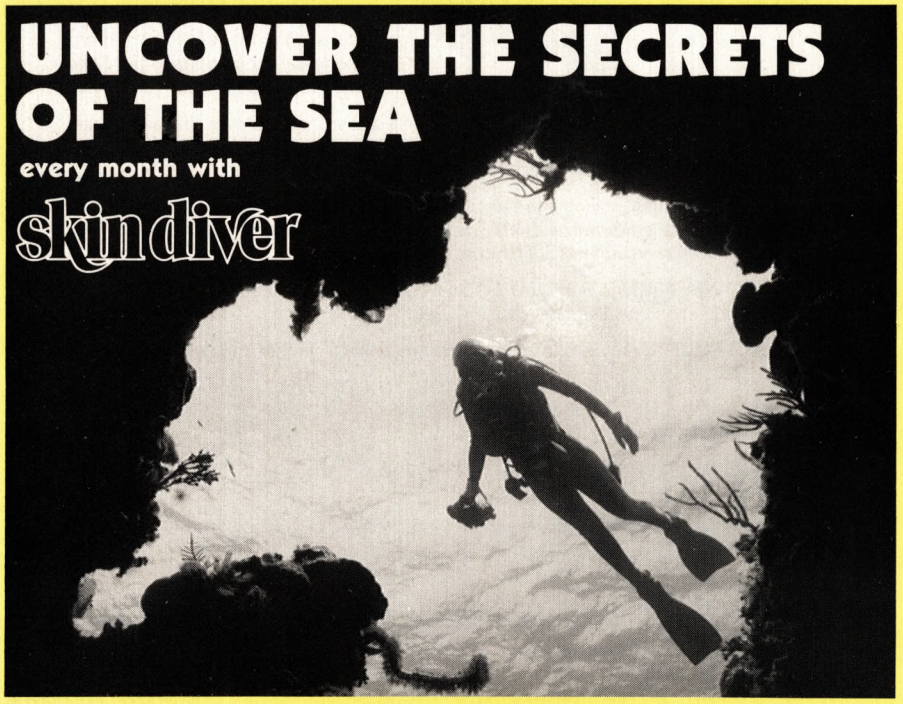
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PALM BEACHES

From Florida's central region, head south toward the Palm Beaches. While traveling you may want to stop at NASA's Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral or visit some of the east coast beaches between Vero Beach and Fort Pierce.

The Palm Beach coast offers some of the very best diving in Florida. For many years the Palm Beach area has been overlooked as a major dive destination because of the more publicized diving in the Florida Keys. While each area of Florida offers its own type of diving, the Palm Beach's diving *forte* is the regular sightings of sharks, dolphins, large jewfish and turtles.

Turtle watching is an amazing phenomenon, unique to Palm Beach. During the warm evenings of the early summer, female loggerhead, hawksbill, green and leatherback turtles leave the safety of the open ocean and crawl toward the darkened beaches. With their flippers, the turtles form holes in the sand in which they deposit hundreds of eggs. During the late summer months, the tiny hatchlings crawl from their shells and begin a long maturation process.

Sea turtles are an endangered species and there is probably no greater concern for their continued existence than in the Palm Beaches. Several support groups offer guided tours to view the nesting turtles. When diving off the Palm Beaches, it is almost guaranteed that you will see one of these large reptiles. It is illegal to harass or ride them. Having the opportunity to swim alongside and photograph these graceful creatures, however, is a thrilling event.

The Gulf Stream passes very close to the Palm Beach coast, usually less than one mile offshore. Most of the diving here is in the 80-100 foot depth range and the current is constant. However, Palm Beach diving operators offer drift diving. It is safe, simple and the most relaxing means of covering great distances U/W.

Usually, the dive guide will handle the tag line, which consists of a nylon rope 100 feet or more long. Attached to one end is a large orange ball; the other end is held by the dive guide U/W. Divers simply descend to the bottom and allow the current to carry them gently across the coral terrain. On the surface the charter boat follows the orange ball, keeping track of the divers at all times. When they surface, the boat is usually within a few hundred feet and easily boarded.

The waters around the Palm Beach area contain a number of sunken wrecks

and barges that form artificial reefs. Some of the more recent wrecks that have been placed as marine preserves are the 120 foot freighter ***Eisaud*** and a 1967 **Rolls Royce** Silver Shadow. The Silver Shadow, worth more than $25,000 at the time of its sinking, was donated to attract media attention to the Palm Beach Artificial Reef Program.

The best known shipwreck is the **Mizpah**, a Greek luxury liner. It is one of the more regularly visited sites in the Palm Beach area. Showing signs of deterioration after more than 16 years on the ocean floor, the 185 foot vessel is in 90 feet of water only a short boat ride from the inlet.

One of the wrecks that has been a favorite attraction for many years is the former island freighter ***Amarylis***. This 300 foot wreck sits upright in less than 100 feet of water, only a short swim from the *Mizpah*. Many dive operators will plan a drift dive over both wrecks and sometimes include the wreck of the ***PC II***. This is a military patrol craft that rests in 100 feet of water. However, owing to tidal changes and the strong three knot current, this wreck is usually reserved for more advanced divers.

Safe wreck diving in the Palm Beaches is strictly enforced. Proper use of the dive tables is necessary, as well as knowledge of local bottom terrain. A secure anchorline, a trailing safety line of at least 100 feet and a current line running from the transom of your boat to the anchorline will make wreck diving much safer. Also, once on the wreck, remaining on the leeward side of the current should make for a safe, exciting dive.

Most reefs are one-half mile offshore and run parallel to the shore. From north of Palm Beach to the red brick lighthouse at Jupiter inlet, the reef takes a dramatic jump. A popular site is called the **Jupiter High Ledge**. It is several miles in length and in areas rises more than 25 feet from the sandy floor at 90 feet. The face of the ledge is deeply pock-marked with crevasses and small caves. Large groupers and lobsters are often found here, as well as several friendly green moray eels. The morays are used to being handfed by local divers and will usually come out of their homes for a handout of food.

Several regularly dived reefs include **Breakers Reef** in 60-80 feet; **The Trench**, a manmade trench running east and west, perpendicular to the current; **Double Ledges**, a series of tiered steps much like a giant staircase in 70 feet of water; **Paul's Reef**, an excellent site in 50 feet of water for novice divers and used regularly for night diving; and others that include **Lynn's**, **Delray Ledge**, **Fingers**, **Boca North** and **Hillsborough**.

What makes Palm Beach diving so exciting is the chance of happening onto something exciting. Owing to the closeness of the Gulf Stream, the opportunities to be visited by a huge Atlantic manta ray,

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FORT LAUDERDALE

South of the Palm Beaches is Fort Lauderdale. Well known for its spring break rites, famous strip, suntanned bodies and beach parties, Ft. Lauderdale is fast becoming a major dive destination.

Ft. Lauderdale's semi-tropical climate allows it to offer a variety of activities for divers, sailors and watersports enthusiasts. It is not uncommon, even in the high class resorts, to find bikini clad sunworshippers strolling through hotel lobbies. On weekends, from the Bahia Mar Hotel complex north to the Days Inn along Federal Highway, brightly colored planes trail banners inviting you to dine, party and dance the night away.

Along the intracoastal waterway million dollar yachts parade along Florida's version of Venice, Italy. Attractions are everywhere. Sightseeing can begin very close to any hotel. The riverboats *Jungle Queen*, *Paddlewheel Queen* and *Hidden Harbor Showboat* leave regularly for entertainment/dinner cruises. Ocean World offers a full day of marine entertainment. Live sharks, leaping porpoises, sea lions performing tricks and coral reef displays are all part of the scenario. Near Hollywood, Six Flags Atlantis is a giant water theme park that can send you soaring down one-half dozen water slides or riding a giant tidal wave.

For divers, what makes this year-round land of warm sun and sea so attractive are the offshore reefs and wrecks. The Ft. Lauderdale reefs consist of three separate coral ledges that run parallel to the beach. The inner reef is the closest to the beach and within snorkeling distance. The middle reef is farther out in 30-40 feet of water and is usually a good shallow dive. The outer reef is more than one mile offshore, with depths in the 80-100 foot range. Because this is a high traffic area for speedboats, windsurfers and catamarans, a dive flag and float are important parts of the diver's equipment.

Numerous schools of grunts and yellowtails are found on these reefs. Playful angelfish, colorful parrotfish and jacks dart among the golden seafans. Large groupers frequently hide under the sponge covered ledges. In season, divers can be found looking under these same ledges for spiny lobsters. Sometimes nests of five or more can be found.

In addition to the many coral ledges found off Ft. Lauderdale, the Broward County Environmental Agency and the Broward County Diving Association have been sinking derelict freighters and other discarded objects outside the reef line,

creating fish havens for visiting divers. The artificial reef program has been very successful and new wrecks are continually being added to the already popular Ft. Lauderdale wrecks and reefs.

Perhaps the most well known ship sunk for artificial reef purposes is the ***Mercedes I***. Her notoriety started during a late November 1984 storm that drove monstrous waves against the Palm Beach coast. The huge ship broke free of her mooring and beached in the backyard of Palm Beach socialite Mollie Wilmot, quickly gaining national attention.

The *Mercedes* sat abandoned for months. After she was declared a derelict she was towed to her present site and sent to the bottom. Today, the 197 foot *Mercedes* rests upright and intact, with her stern in 90 feet of water and her bow in 100. A dive to this wreck requires some careful planning and good knowledge of the dive tables. This wreck is one of the more popular dive sites and can be found easily by the many dive boats that anchor above her. The superstructure remains intact, allowing divers to swim into the wheelhouse and around the decks. A large, gaping hole near the bow allows a view into the hold.

Another good wreck for sport diving is the 150 foot ***Rebel***. Sunk in the summer of 1985, not more than 400 yards from the *Mercedes*, the *Rebel* sits upright and perfectly intact at 110 feet. The deck of the ship is at 85 feet and when the clear waters of the Gulf Stream flow through, visibility exceeds 100 feet. The **Tenneco Towers** are a former Gulf of Mexico oil drilling platform donated by the Tenneco Oil Company. This fantastic fish haven was placed near Hollywood, allowing Miami dive operators the opportunity to visit the site as well.

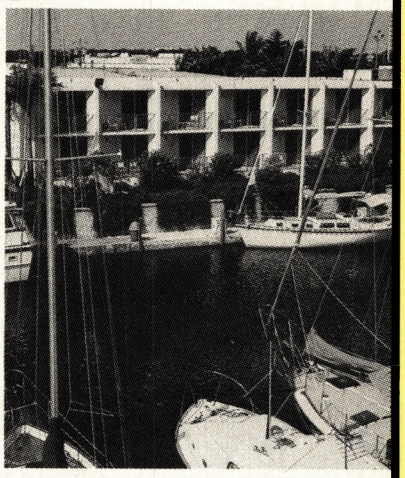
The towers are made up of three major sections. Each was placed in depths from 60-120 feet, at 100 yard intervals. The shallowest one-third is the upper derrick structure, the second third is the working deck and the last third is its massive legs. Large fish are attracted to this site and, according to the Broward County Dive Association, spearfishing is allowed.

Other wrecks that are frequently dived include the tug ***Trio Bravo***, several barges and a houseboat. Some divers claim an intact German U-boat lies in these waters. Each year the Broward Historical Commission's Marine Archeological Advisory Council sponsors a shipwreck symposium with marine archaeologists and treasure hunters present.

Of all the known shipwrecks in the Ft. Lauderdale area, the most colorful by far is the **Old Houseboat**. Sunk more than ten years ago to serve as an artificial reef, the wreck today is covered with soft corals and deepwater gorgonians. A cloud of silver baitfish hovers along the side of the boat and parts when a diver swims through. Large barracudas dominate this wreck like troopers in a garrison. The ***Barge Wreck*** is nearby. More than 100

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feet long, it is covered with scarlet red coral and deepwater gorgonians frame open hatchways.

Shipwrecks may be a major attraction of Ft. Lauderdale's Gold Coast, but the reefs are excellent for underwater hunters. **Lobster Ledge** is a popular location for bug hunters. Large hog snappers are often seen roaming the bottom. Not far away is the lone ***Freighter Anchor***. Sitting upon a barren sand plateau, the anchor serves as an excellent photo prop. A huge chain attached to the anchor trails over the reef for more than 200 feet.

Fisher's Pedestal is popular with local charter boats. On the inside of the middle reef, three large coral pedestals resembling mushrooms protrude from the sand floor. The larger mound has a coral encrusted overhang that is actually a cleaning station. Large barracudas are sometimes observed waiting their turns to have parasites removed from their gills and mouths. The other mounds contain large strands of staghorn coral and diffusely colored sponges.

Other popular reef sites include Hammerhead Reef and Barracuda Reef. **Hammerhead Reef** is part of the deeper outer reef in depths of 80 feet. There are wide sand channels with coral mounds rising more than six feet from the bottom. Along the sand channel large horse and queen conch can be found. Southern stingrays are often found feeding in the area and it is not uncommon to see large amberjacks, pompanos or an occasional nurse shark. Many small tropical fish can be observed among the soft, oscillating corals along the face of the coral ridges.

Barracuda Reef can be found directly off the beach at John U. Lloyd State Park. The reef system is in less than 30 feet of water and very close to the beach. Because of its proximity, beach diving is popular. The reef has a healthy concentration of staghorn, brain and star corals, more commonly found in the Keys. The coral ledges rise more than four feet from the sand floor, creating tunnels that are home to lobsters and spotted moray eels.

In a short period of time, Ft. Lauderdale has become an attractive vacation destination for the diver and nondiver alike. With some of the most famous beaches, quality resort operators and excellent dive facilities, Ft. Lauderdale is a guaranteed winner!

MIAMI

From Ft. Lauderdale to the neon glitter of downtown Miami, the coast is lined



with tall highrise condominiums. Across Biscayne Bay, 1,000 silky sails billow from colorful catamarans as they race with the wind. Nearby, a pod of wild dolphins playfully swims alongside pleasure craft in pursuit of the perfect wake. When dusk falls, the city comes alive with a spectacular skyline of brightly lit buildings. Called the "Magic City," Miami is often referred to as the "city of lights," rivaling only New York and Paris. Such is the everyday scene in South Florida's largest city.

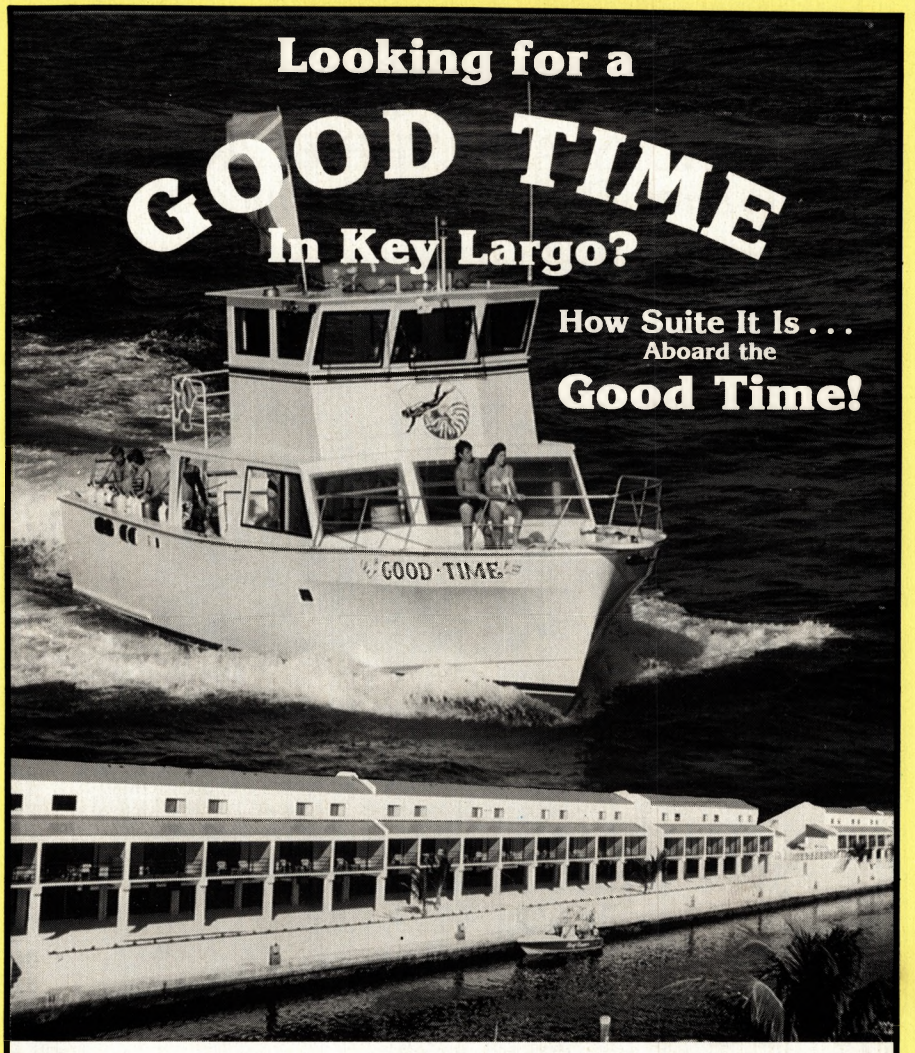
Miami is one of the most ocean oriented cities in North America. The University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science is a prestigious oceanographic school. It is on Virginia Key next to the Miami Seaquarium. At the Seaquarium, talented dolphins leap acrobatically in the air, while friendly sea lions and a killer whale perform daily. The Seaquarium's most notable character is Flipper. The television series of the same name was filmed here.

Across the street, Planet Ocean is the world's largest marine science museum. Here you can experience a hurricane, touch an iceberg or board a research sub for a ride into the deep unknown.

The Port of Miami is home to the largest fleet of cruise ships in the world. More than one dozen cruise ships leave the seaport weekly, taking passengers on high sea adventures to ports of call in the Caribbean. The many small islands and keys that dot the Miami coastline offer secluded hideaways for boaters and sunbathers. There are miles of beautiful beaches backdropped by the pastel colors of art deco buildings where much of TV's Miami Vice is filmed. Truly unique to Miami is the graveyard of shipwrecks that lies just off these same beaches.

Miami offers several professional dive charters and underwater tour guides. Diving in Miami is a year-round activity enjoyed by both novice and experienced divers. Dade County's Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) is the most progressive agency in the country for actively supporting artificial reef building. To date, nearly three dozen wrecks and other clusters of debris have been placed offshore as reefs. At the time of this writing, negotiations were underway to sink a former U.S. Navy submarine in 60 feet of water for all levels of divers to enjoy.

One of the first wrecks sunk to form an artificial reef was the former U.S. Army supply ship, ***Almirante***. The 200 foot freighter sits a few miles off the northern tip of Elliot Key. The vessel is upright in 130 feet of water. Most of the superstructure was removed prior to sinking and the wooden decking has given way to shipworms. The *Almirante* is the most colorful of all the Miami wrecks. The vessel is covered with soft and hard corals. Deepwater gorgonians line her ribs, reminiscent of South Pacific flora. Large oceanic



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denizens constantly cruise her decks and many deepwater fish call her home.

The ***Blue Fire*** is one of the most majestic shipwrecks in the Miami area. Seized during the Cuban exodus at Mariel, the ship was sunk in 110 feet of water. It is an underwater photographer's dream. The fully intact *Blue Fire* sits upright with more than 30 feet of relief. It looks the way you would imagine a shipwreck to look—a ghostly remnant from some Hollywood movie. The deck winches and radar mast are still intact. The main bridge and cabins are accessible and portholes still line the corridors.

The ***Deep Freeze*** is one of the deeper wrecks at 135 feet. The 210 foot freighter rests intact with incredible colonies of spiny oysters growing over her decks. The ***Saint Anne de Auray*** is a recent addition to the Miami underwater fleet. It is a good site for novice wreck divers or for those who enjoy extended bottom time. At 70 feet, with relief of more than 28 feet, the 110 foot trawler rests perfectly intact with a slight list to starboard.

The 195 foot ***Ultra Freeze***, like the *Deep Freeze*, was a former refrigerator freighter. Sunk in July 1984 at a depth of 120 feet, the steel vessel comes to within 70 feet of the surface. The ship today has attracted large schools of predator fish and other marine creatures. The ***Biscayne Wreck*** was one of the earliest known artificial reefs. Sunk in 55 feet of water near Key Biscayne, it is covered with soft corals and encrusting sponges and is home to thousands of grunts.

The 200 foot ***Proteus*** has little relief, but has a huge propeller that is excellent for photography. North of Key Biscayne the former Woolworth yacht, ***South Seas***, sits on a sand bottom in just more than 70 feet of water. The 165 foot ***Arida*** is badly broken and turned on its starboard side. This wreck is home to thousands of reef fish and sits in less than 90 feet of water. The wooden hulk of the ***Mary Ann I*** is badly broken apart. The once proud sailing vessel ***Lady Free*** is now no more than a broken pile of wooden planks.

The ***Orion*** is a classic looking wreck and one of the more popular, regularly visited sites. Often the first impression one has as she/he approaches is that of a ghostly wreck underway along a sea of sand. Sunk in December 1981, the 120 foot oceangoing tug sits intact with a slight starboard list at 95 feet. The *Orion* is alive with color. Many small macro marine organisms cover the entire tug and long, soft corals flow gently in the currents. This wreck is easily divable for all levels of certification and makes an excellent prop for U/W photographers.

The Miami area is not without its share of excellent reefs. Biscayne Bay and the natural patch reefs that extend to the northern tip of Key Largo form the boundaries of the Biscayne National Park. Within the park several reefs offer corals and marine life typical of what you might expect in the Florida Keys. **Triumph Reef** and **Long Reef** are two of the healthiest in the Miami area.

Fowey Reef is marked by a 165 foot tall steel light tower. Visibility often exceeds 70 feet on this spur and groove style reef. Long, winding sand chutes taper off sharply from 40 feet to depths of more than 90. South of the light, massive stands of elkhorn coral grow to within inches of the surface.

Emerald Reef is a popular dive site, often visited after diving one of the deeper wrecks. Common to this reef are deep purple seafans, pillar corals and acres of elkhorn corals.

For the avid wreck diver, Miami is one Florida vacation stop not to miss.

FLORIDA KEYS

The Florida Keys are truly some of the state's most prized assets. The 100 mile long island chain runs southwest, spanning the entire width of the state. Touted as "The Islands You Can Drive To," the low lying coral islands are accessible by automobile, plane or boat. The real joy of vacationing in the Florida Keys is the tropical ambiance of a Caribbean island combined with the convenience of not leaving the United States.

Long before diving became popular, and before the steady flow of early settlers, the Florida Keys were inhabited by the Calusa Indians. With the discovery of the New World, the Calusas were soon victimized by Spanish slavers and diseases of the Old World. Once a great nation of free roaming hunters and fishermen, the Calusas were soon extinct.

The steady armadas of Spanish galleons loaded with riches from Havana navigated the sealanes of the Florida Straits. Poor nautical charts, inadequate navigational instruments and frequent unpredictable storms wreaked havoc on the merchant ships. Even with the immense deepwater ocean offshore, these sailing vessels constantly dared the treacherous reefs of the Florida Keys.

Through the 16th century and much of the 17th and 18th centuries, the Spanish Plate Fleet followed the prevailing trade winds to Spain. Those that survived the voyage made Spain the richest and most powerful nation in the world. Those that didn't are hidden treasures among the many reefs and sandy shoals throughout the Keys. Some, such as the *Nuestra Senora de Atocha* and the *Santa Margarita*, sunk in 1622 in the waters of the Marquesas Keys, have released their treasures of gold, silver, emeralds and countless coins. Others still are legends waiting to be found.

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Pirates were an additional hazard to the shipping lanes of the keys. Such notorious men as Blackbeard, Gaparilla and Black Caesar were among the most feared of this era. Wreckers were skilled sailors who preyed on more natural disasters. For many years, a wreck a week was the average harvest from the sea here. In 1852, the United States government began erecting steel light towers on the reefs of the Keys and the great wrecking period soon ended.

The traditional dependence upon the sea for transportation throughout the Keys changed with the construction of the Overseas Railroad. Tracks were laid from Miami, connecting 29 of the coral islands across the waters of the Florida Bay. The tracks of the Florida East Coast Railway are now the foundation for the concrete ribbon known as the Overseas Highway (U.S. 1). Green mile markers have been erected and are often used as postal addresses. Beginning at MM 0 at the Monroe County courthouse in Key West, mile markers progress to MM 126 at Florida City. Today, the major centers of population surround Key Largo in the Upper Keys, Marathon in the Middle Keys and Key West in the Lower Keys.

Whether you are visiting the Keys for the first time or returning as a naturalized resident, they offer a wonderful variety of wrecks and coral reefs in warm, clean, tropical waters.

Once your predetermined vacation plans are in motion, it is wise to consider the many lodging options available. Most dive operators offer package prices with convenient hotels or condominium complexes nearby. Others will be helpful in reserving a hotel or lodge of your choice. There are large international resort hotels, intimate family style lodges, campgrounds, guesthouses, condominiums and trailer parks. Many of the dive shops have toll free reservation numbers and are happy to assist in all of your dive/lodging requirements.

Nightlife is what sets the Florida Keys apart from most Caribbean dive destinations. There are nightclubs with live entertainment, movie theaters, shopping and cable television in most hotels. Dive shops frequently sponsor events such as underwater slide shows, barbecues and night diving. The Florida Keys offer a nice complement of activities for vacationing divers and nondivers alike.

Divers should be aware, however, that certification cards are mandatory and logbooks are often required. Nearly one-half of the diving population travels to the Keys annually and a logbook is a good indicator of experience level. While most of the diving is very shallow and requires little experience, it would be a shame to miss some of the very best deeper artificial wrecks/reefs in the area. There are many derelict ships being sent to the bottom each year to form artificial reefs. Most are sunk in 100 feet of water and require more experience to dive. These new reefs, besides building fish populations, serve two other purposes. Divers can experience the thrill of deep ocean wreck diving and traffic is minimized on the more popular reefs. Everyone benefits, allowing healther reef and fish populations to flourish.

Recreational anglers can enjoy impressive catches of permits, tarpons, groupers and sharks. Sailors and windsurfers can enjoy countless miles of fine sailing on both bayside and oceanside. Jet Skis and parasailers are also available for rent, as are canoes to paddle endlessly through a maze of mangrove swamps. Nature lovers will be thrilled with the populations of colorful, exotic birds such as blue herons, roseate spoonbills, pelicans, ibis and egrets.

If you can break away from a day of diving, tour the Everglades National Park near Florida City. The serene beauty, soli-



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tude and quiet are broken only momentarily by the shriek of a hawk or the rustle of an alligator. Or, head south to the Mallory docks in Key West, where each night an impromptu circus of street vendors and magicians performs in the sunset ritual. It is thrilling to stand at the end of the world and cheer as the sun slowly sinks in the iridescent western waters.

UPPER KEYS

Key Largo, Tavernier and Islamorada are the three main commerce centers of the Upper Keys. Key Largo is the site of much of the diving activity. Rows of red and white striped dive flags on billboards, flagpoles and storefronts line the highway. All of this activity is centered around the **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park** and the adjacent **Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary**. The park and sanctuary encompass more than 183 square miles of reefs and wrecks. At the park headquarters, dive and snorkel boats, glassbottom boats and canoes are available from concessionaires.

If you have ever dreamed of one day being an undersea aquanaut, the opportunity exists in Key Largo. At the Koblick Marine Center you can spend 24 hours in either an underwater hotel called Jules' Undersea Lodge or in a submerged marine science lab.

Marine educators or would-be scientists can sign up for any of several different marine classes in the habitat diver program. Each is designed to teach more about the sea. With any, you can become a certified aquanaut through the PADI or NAUI habitat diver certification program.

Offshore, the fringing coral reefs are some of the prettiest found in the tropics. **Carysfort Reef** is easily located by a 112 foot steel light tower and marks the park's northern corner. It was named for the British man of war HMS *Carysford* (over the years the name was transformed into Carysfort) that ran aground in late 1770. Carysfort is a very healthy reef with a well defined spur and groove system. It is actually in two parts, separated by a wide sand channel of more than 100 feet. This reef system features magnificent forests of elkhorn corals interspersed with large brain corals. Massive schools of fish are concentrated on this reef. Seaward of the reef, the limestone ledges drop sharply from 35-65 feet. The sea is adorned with colorful sponges and soft coral.

The Elbow is a large expanse of reef. Several historical shipwrecks make it an interesting dive site. The wrecks of the ***City of Washington***, the ***Towanda*** and the ***Civil War Wreck*** have attracted large schools of reef fish. The superstructures were all removed years ago so as not to impede navigation. Today, coral has grown over every square inch of what remains. Many fish have been handfed by local dive operators and are considered pets. It is not uncommon to be approached by a large green moray or bar-

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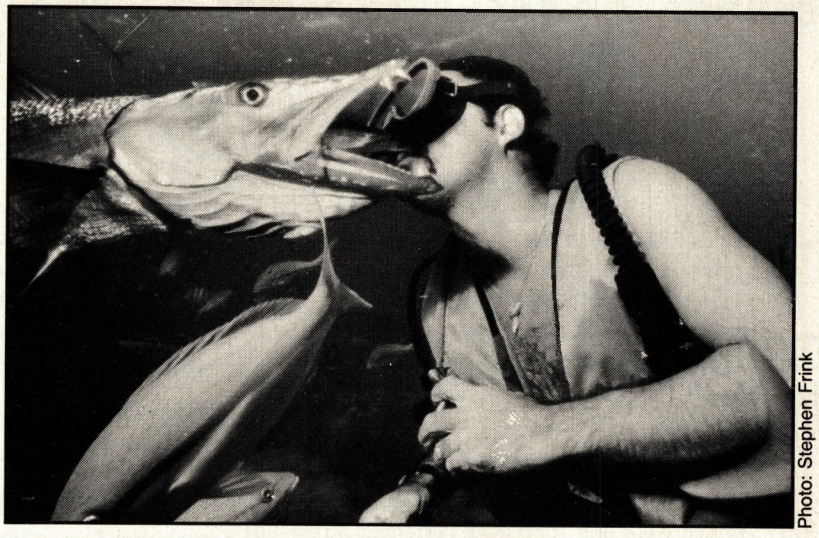


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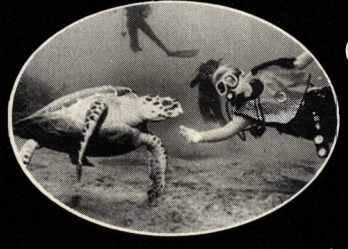
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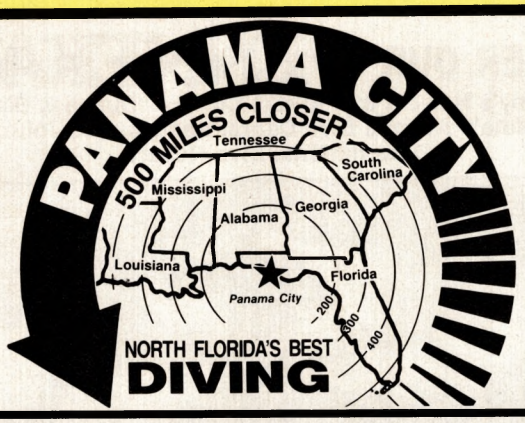


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racuda while diving these reefs.

The nine foot tall bronze statue of the **Christ of the Abyss** has become a well known symbol of the park. Donated by Edigio Cressi, of the Italian dive equipment manufacturer Cressi-sub, it was placed in 25 feet of water near the Dry Rocks. (The figure is a duplicate of a bronze statue found in the Mediterranean off Genoa, Italy.) This area is popular with photographers not only for the statue, but the large number of schooling yellowtails and approachable barracudas.

The ***Benwood*** is one of the better known wrecks in the park. It lies in 25-45 feet of water. Her history includes a colorful past of being torpedoed by a German U-boat during the second World War, rammed by an American military boat and then ordered to run aground so the crew and cargo might be saved. Her superstructure has been removed. The bow, in deeper water, is the most intact. The ship is large, but can be explored easily on a single tank dive. Beneath the steel plating and around the vessel's ribs are spotted moray eels, lobsters and many small tropical fish. The bow is home to a massive school of goatfish and along the sides are porkfish and grunts.

French Reef is an excellent coral system of swim-through caves and sponge encrusted overhangs. Large openings three to four feet high lead into caverns filled with copper sweepers, groupers and snooks. During the summer months the caves are filled with millions of glassy minnows. **Molasses Reef** marks the southern end of the park and is easily found because of its 45 foot steel light tower. This reef is the most popular of all the Pennekamp reefs, and easily the most dived reef site in the world. The best diving is found seaward of the tower. Beautiful high profile corals adorned with lots of golden and lavender seafans, soft corals and sponges make this site a photographic wonderland. For fish photographers, there is no better place. Flowing schools of grunts and snappers, scrawled filefish, Atlantic spadefish, colorful angelfish, inquisitive barracudas and southern stingrays make diving Molasses Reef like swimming in your own backyard aquarium.

Two recent additions to the Key Largo diving scene are the U.S. Coast Guard cutters ***Bibb*** and ***Duane***. The two 337 foot sister ships last saw action during the Viet Nam War. Recently decommissioned, they were cleaned and prepared to be sunk outside of the park boundaries. The ships are near Molasses Reef, only hundreds of yards apart. The first military ships to be sunk purposely for artificial reefs, these added attractions

should help relieve the diver traffic on the fragile natural reefs.

Pickles Reef is just two miles south of Molasses and popular with dive boats from Tavernier. The reef is low profile, in shallow water between 10 and 24 feet deep. There are a lot of small macro inhabitants among the small corals and seafans. Nudibranchs, flamingo tongues and scorpionfish are common.

Conch Reef offers a more interesting deeper dive. A drop-off begins in 60 feet of water and plunges to 100. This is a good location to observe eagle rays, sea turtles and, occasionally, sharks. The descent along the wall offers vistas of deepwater gorgonians and large barrel sponges. The shallow portions of the reef include majestic stands of pillar coral.

Artificial reefs such as the ***Eagle*** are a tremendous example of the reef building program. Sunk in December 1985, the 287 foot freighter now rests on her starboard side in 110 feet of water. The shipwreck has attracted numerous schools of amberjacks, grunts, parrotfish and, occasionally, jewfish. There are encrusting sponges and corals growing over the wreck, the homes of a variety of small crabs and macro critters.

The **Cannabis Cruiser** was intentionally sunk by its crew to avoid prosecution. The former tugboat was loaded with marijuana when its crew members realized they were under surveillance. The tug now sits upright on a sandy ocean floor in 110 feet of water. Little remains of its contraband cargo.

Davis Reef is a fun shallow dive with many colorful seafans and soft, fuzzy seawhips. Schools of grunts, lobsters and nurse sharks frequent the area. This is a favorite location for a second dive after one of the deeper dives in the area. **Hens and Chickens**, in 22 feet of water, offers huge star coral heads. **Crocker Reef** is a sloping coral cliff. Turtles and larger marine pelagics are often found in depths of 50-80 feet. **The Gully** offers fabulous schools of fish flowing along a series of colorful ledges.

Spearfishing is illegal in the marine parks. Permanent mooring buoys have been installed at most of the more popular reef sites, making locating and anchoring easy. However, when diving in an area not permanently marked, reef conservation is of the utmost concern. Always anchor in a sandy patch and, when diving, be careful not to touch or carelessly bump into any of the corals.

MIDDLE KEYS

The Middle Keys are much more removed from the busy and hectic pulse of the Upper Keys. Except for Marathon, the Middle Keys of Conch, Duck, Hawk's and Grassy are more relaxed, with a tropical ambiance. Marathon is a busy center for local commerce and offers an airstrip and hospital. The side streets offer the traveling diver the opportunity to explore scenic marinas, commercial fishing boats and beautiful beaches.

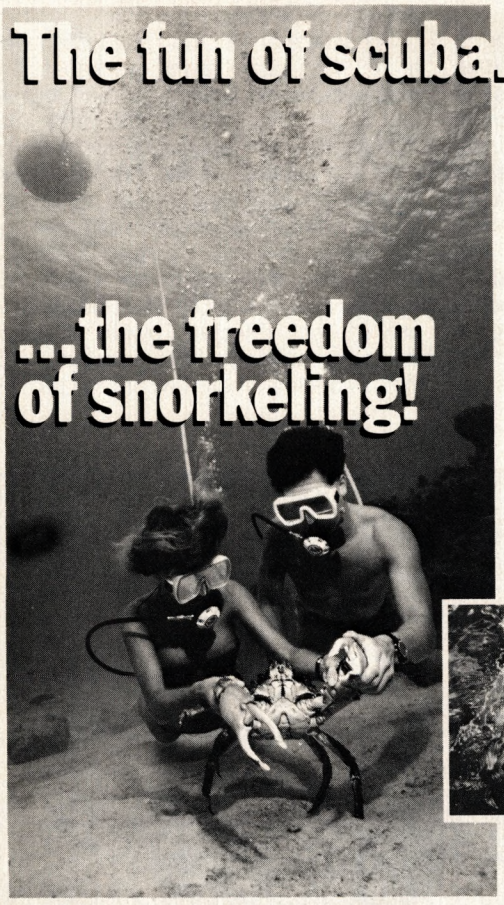
The Middle Keys offer the diver a good selection of top quality resorts and dive operators. The real beauty of this area is that most vacationing divers spend much of their underwater time in Key Largo, rarely venturing south along the emerald isles. Dive facilities dot the Middle Keys, all offering very interesting and very unique dive profiles.

Middle Keys diving includes shallow and mid-depth reefs as well as wrecks. The ***Thunderbolt*** is a fine example of Middle Keys wreck diving. It has been down for almost two years and has attracted an impressive population of fish and marine invertebrates.

In her former life, the *Thunderbolt* was a 188 foot cable laying workboat. For many years she sat in a yard on the Miami River. Considered a derelict, the *Thunderbolt* was bought by the Artificial Reef Committee of the Florida Keys, cleaned for diver access and sunk in 115 feet of water. She now sits upright in her final resting place, just south of Vaca Cut near Marathon. Most of the superstructure remains intact. The wheelhouse is in only 70 feet of water. Toward the bow, the huge cable spool sits prominently on the foredeck and, aft, two bronze propel-



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lers sit idle on the sand floor.

The **Duck Key Wreck** is a former steam powered freighter that sank accidentally. Her history seems obscured, but the remains are very recognizable. Four large smoke stacks lie broken near the hull, two huge boilers remain intact and small bronze artifacts can still be found. The depths range from 20-25 feet of water, making this an easy dive for novices or those who haven't been in the ocean for some time. The wreck sits above the lower coral structure, suggesting it ran aground. Lots of striped grunts, goatfish and parrotfish call this wreck home.

The **Seven Mile Bridge** is another excellent artificial reef site. The old swing-span of the former bridge was sunk after the construction of the new, raised concrete structure. The large metal gears that moved the bridge up and down are excellent photo props. They are covered with spiny oysters and encrusting sponges and soft corals. Large schools of grunts and snappers inhabit the twisted girders.

The most popular of the Middle Keys reefs is ***Sombrero Reef***. Easily found because of its 136 foot lighted tower, Sombrero is an excellent example of some of the better Florida Keys diving. From the air, the dark fingers that run seaward are typical of the spur and groove system of the Keys reefs. High profile corals such as pillar, plate, star, elkhorn and staghorn are found in depths of about 25 feet. Lots of seafans, gorgonians and soft fuzzy seawhips cover the underwater landscape. Schools of grunts and goatfish pack the overhangs and coral edifices, while coneys and groupers peer from their homes. This area is excellent for underwater photographers of every level.

Coffin's Patch is a peculiar name for a reef, but it's not a place to avoid. The reef system is a conglomerate of six different reef sites with excellent stands of elkhorn and staghorn corals. Large brain corals are interspersed throughout the reef. The depth averages about 25 feet.

At **Delta Shoals**, the reef structure starts in shallow water and drops to about 100 feet. It is low profile and barrel sponges grow profusely throughout. However, elkhorn is the dominant coral. Lots of fish and macro invertebrates are the highlights of this dive.

Probably one of the most popular and controversial reefs in recent years is **Looe Key**. The Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary is a 5.3 square mile protected preserve off Big Pine Key. Looe Key is one of the best reef systems in the Florida Keys and reminiscent of reefs found in the Bahamas. It was named after

the HMS *Looe*, a British man of war that ran aground in 1744. The wreck no longer exists, but the reefs that lie within the boundaries of the sanctuary are a complete coral ecosystem. An area called **Rubble Reef** holds the clues to a fossil coral system. **Fore Reef** is a high profile spur and groove configuration.

The flats around the reef are shallow seagrass beds that are the breeding grounds of the formerly collectible queen conch. The intermediate and deep reefs are an impressive collection of almost every type of sponge and soft coral found in the Florida Keys. The deeper reef offers the experienced diver a greater diversity than most other reefs. Protected from spearfishing and marine collecting, the sanctuary is alive with fish and color, yet the crowds are sparse. Owing to its remoteness, Looe Key is accessible only to Big Pine Key dive operators. However, upon special request, charter boats from Marathon will usually make a day trip.

LOWER KEYS

South of Big Pine Key the Florida Keys scatter into the Atlantic Ocean like splatters of paint on an insane artist's canvas. The coral islands of Torch, Ramrod, Summerland, Surgarloaf, Saddlebunch and Boca Chica, and the many mangrove islets of the Florida Bay, are fragments of a world known only to themselves. These areas are rarely dived, and only by a handful of divers.

At Key West, the ambiance of the Keys changes. Only 90 miles north of Cuba, and 157 miles southwest of Miami, Key West is a party town—the end of the rainbow. Because Key West is the end of the island chain, there is no physical barrier that separates the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Florida Bay from the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, there is a wide distribution of warm water corals and a greater distribution of marine animals in the waters surrounding Key West and Marquesas Keys to the southwest.

The most visible of the Key West dive sites is the lighted iron tower on **Sand Key**. The lighthouse, erected in 1853, actually stands on a small cay made mostly of sand and broken shells. Depths range from 10 feet on the leeside, to more than 65 feet on the seaward side. The reef system consists of coral fingers and deep sand gullies. In many places a drop of 20 feet from the top of the reef to the sand floor is not uncommon. Staghorn, elkhorn and brain corals are the most evident.

Other popular sites around the Key West area include the **Western**, **Middle** and **Eastern Sambos**. An hour and one-half boat ride to Western Sambo reveals long passageways and swarms of marine creatures. There are coral tunnels, caves and grottoes found in the deeper waters. Five miles south of Key West are the **Eastern Dry Rocks**. On this reef site an unindentified wreck lies scattered along the bottom. Nearby, a good site called

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Rock Key is easily found. The remains of two shipwrecks are found here. One, known as the **Tile Wreck**, yields brass artifacts for the would-be treasure hunter, the other reportedly has given up small cannon balls.

One special dive site is called **Ten Fathom Ledge**. About seven miles from Key West near Sandy Key, the ledge isn't typical of the deep reefs in the Florida Keys. It starts in about 45 feet of water and drops for more than 65 feet. Visibility is often exceptional here, with sightings of eagle rays and sharks common.

Many of the dive operators are continuing to discover mid-depth reefs in the 50-80 foot range, offering the visitor a greater variety of dive sites. It is not uncom-

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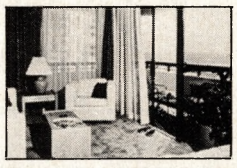
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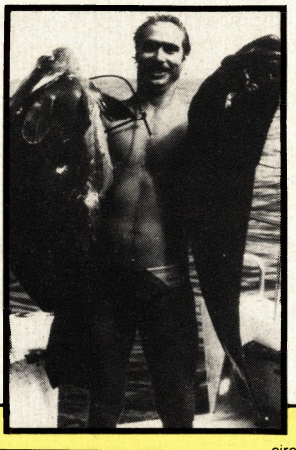
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mon to be the only dive boat on a reef and not see another all day long. The shallow reefs are typified by massive schools of fish and colorful corals and sponges. The deeper reefs are flushed with the Gulf Stream—usually bringing with it larger pelagics.

Florida's Lower Keys, however, are not without their share of sunken artificial wrecks/reefs. Perhaps the most popular of the Key West wrecks is the ***Cayman Salvager***. The 180 foot steel hulled former buoy tender sits upright in 90 feet of water. It was sunk intentionally as an artificial reef in April 1985. The wreck has large schools of congregating fish that shroud its decks and are easily photographed. The wreck sits in the Gulf Stream and, as a result, currents can be challenging. However, when conditions are right, it is fascinating to explore.

The ***Curb*** is a much deeper wreck and one that requires more advanced underwater skills. The former salvage tug rests at 185 feet.

In only 35 feet of water, the ***Alexander*** is the shallowest of the Key West wrecks. It sits solemnly on the gulf side of the island, five miles west of the navigational buoy. The wreck has been down for more than 15 years and, as a result, has accumulated a fantastic growth of soft corals and sponges. The former destroyer escort was named after the salvor who sank her, Chet Alexander. Today, the *Alexander* sits broken in half. Her stern section is about 150 yards from the bow section and is home to Atlantic spadefish, porkfish, groupers, grunts and snappers.

The Marquesas are about 35 miles west of Key West. They have countless numbers of historical shipwrecks and fringing coral reefs yet to be explored. The Marquesa Keys are the location of the famous Spanish galleon wrecks, the *Atocha* and *Margarita*.

A bit farther south of the *Atocha* is a little known area called **Cosgrove Shoal**. This is the western extension of the outer edge of the Atlantic reef platform. The shoal offers some very exciting diving with large fish and sharp drop-offs. Because of the distance involved, overnight stays or weekend jaunts are required. A fast boat can make a one day trip when conditions are right.

Sixty-eight miles from Key West are the **Dry Tortugas**, the home of historic Fort Jefferson. This area is rarely dived and is accessible only by seaplane or group charters. Fort Jefferson Monument is the largest masonry fortress in the Western Hemisphere. Though the fort never saw action and the massive cannons were never fired, it is famous as a prison with its most notable inmate being Dr. Samuel Mudd. The Dry Tortugas are excellent for snorkeling, with many coral reefs growing near the walls of the fort. Birdwatching is a specialty and these islands have the only frigate bird rookery in the U.S.

As exciting as Key West is underwater, topside the island city is a carnival of artists, playwrights, the rich and famous and old salty dogs. Key West has a rich and historical past. From pirates and Indians to modern day shrimpers, Key West is colorful. It is more diverse in post dive attractions than all the other keys.

Duval Street is the most active place to be with its boutiques, restaurants and local bars with interesting characters. Though the island remains part of the continental United States, the atmosphere dictates a mood far removed from most any other place you may have experienced. A combination of Sausalito, California, the New Orleans French Quarter, St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands or some lost civilization waiting to be discovered, Key West is exciting.

The only way to top off a successful day of diving is to drive down to Mallory Square at the end of Duval Street and enjoy the famous Key West sunset. I remember the first time I watched this island ritual. The Atlantic waters first turned one hundred shades of iridescent blue. As the enormous yellow sun neared the horizon, the gathering crowd quieted to listen for the hiss of the sun as it touched the ocean. Everyone was caught up in the moment as the last glitter of sun slowly disappeared, leaving behind a ghostly glow of pale pink and blue sky.

CONCLUSION

Florida is a diverse state—rich in heritage, famous for its beaches, praised for its culture and well traveled because of its warm and friendly people. From the emerald waters and sugar-sand beaches of the Panhandle, to the crystal clear spring waters of the interior, south along the Gold Coast mansions of Palm Beach to the neon glitter of Miami, to the tropical ambiance of the Keys, Florida has enough diving and vacation adventure for you and your family for a lifetime.

Additional information can be obtained in an informative Florida Vacation Guide booklet listing most of the state's tourist attractions. Write to Florida Division of Tourism, Visitor Inquiry Section, 126 Van Buren Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

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Diving News From Down Under

Bougainville–The Coral Sea's Closest Atoll

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

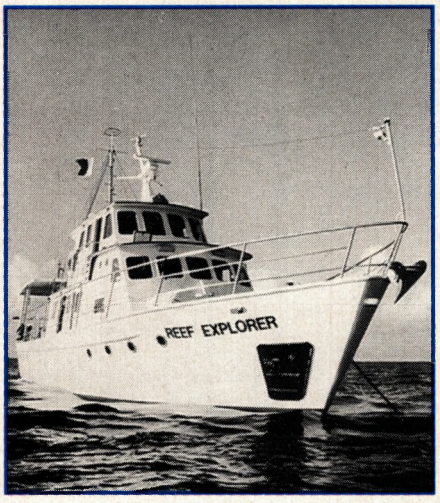
Australia's Coral Sea is a vast expanse of pristine ocean that remains untouched by commercialism, tourism or development. Lying about 100 miles beyond the Great Barrier Reef, this remote, unpopulated zone of the South Pacific is the home of one-half ton marlin, 16 foot manta rays, 600 pound Queensland groupers, schools of Pacific barracuda, whales, sharks and more. Hard corals grow in mass profusion and soft corals bloom in a riot of colors.

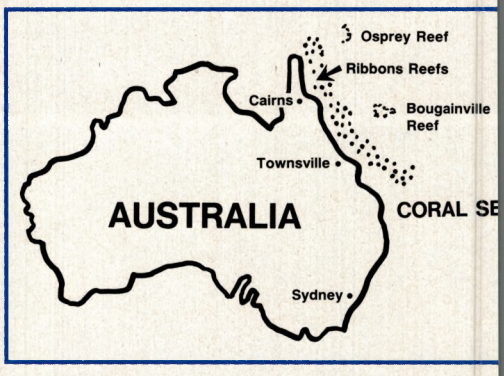
Perched on the edge of this vast ocean is Bougainville Reef, the Coral Sea's closest atoll to the Australian coast. It has become a popular choice among live-aboard dive boat skippers because of its proximity and marvelous undersea life. The eight hour sail from the outer edge of the Barrier Reef is like stepping through a looking glass into an *Alice in Wonderland* of magnificent corals and fish life.

Bougainville Reef lies 120 miles northeast of Cairns, Australia's diving capital on the North Queensland coast. Divers can actually fly directly into Cairns from the United States on Qantas, Australia's official flag carrier. Qantas 747 jumbo jets depart from Los Angeles or San Francisco and connect with the Cairns flight in Honolulu.

Bougainville is on the same latitude as Cooktown. It is only 80 miles from the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef. Live-aboard dive boats generally combine a Bougainville trip with diving along the Ribbons Reefs on the Great Barrier Reef. The trip from the Ribbons to Bougainville takes about eight hours. The cruise is generally done at night, departing the Ribbons after dinner. Guests awake the next morning at the dive site.

Bougainville is one of the smallest of the major Coral Sea atolls. It is tiny in comparison to Osprey, Holmes or Marion, yet it still offers several miles of virgin reefs. Somewhat circular in shape, Bougainville represents the tiny tip of a submerged mountain that rises thousands of feet from the ocean floor. The waters surrounding Bougainville range from 2,000-6,000 feet in depth. As a result, the underwater visibility averages 200 feet. These crystalline seas are unblemished by rain runoff, rivers or pollution. And, Bougainville's tightly packed corals filter the ocean clean of any floating plankton or algae.





Bougainville Reef is on the edge of the Coral Sea nearest Australia. Both the *Coralita* (below) and *Reef Explorer* (left) can carry 12 passengers to this atoll.



Bougainville's major attractions are several spectacular drop-offs. These vertical walls are adorned with incredibly large soft corals—some measuring six feet long. The delicate formations jut out from the wall, as their intricate web of filter feeding branches attempt to catch microscopic food in the current.

Also growing out from the vertical drop-offs are black coral formations the size of Christmas trees! Some are 6-10 feet tall, with their spreading white branches looking much like snow covered pines. And, as divers hover off the wall shooting U/W photos of the corals, they are likely to see a giant manta ray glide past. All types of large pelagics cruise along Bougainville's drop-offs. The most frequently seen are schooling jacks, tuna, sharks and Pacific barracudas.

The shallow coral gardens of Bougainville can be equally fascinating. These are some of the most beautiful in the Coral Sea. Dozens of different coral species are tightly packed together and provide protective homes for all kinds of exotic creatures. There are hundreds of fish cleaning stations where tropical reef fish wait patiently for shrimp and wrasse to pick off their parasites.

Night diving at Bougainville is another adventure that should not be missed. The coral polyps are outstretched and feeding. Dozens of lionfish (called butterfly cod) come out of hiding and can be easily photographed.

Still another key attraction of Bougainville is the wreck of the *Antonio Terabocchi*, an Italian freighter that crashed into the reef. The broken hulk lies in 20-60 feet of water and is loaded with fish life.

(Continued on Page 110)

BAHAMAS

THE ISLES OF PERPETUAL JUNE

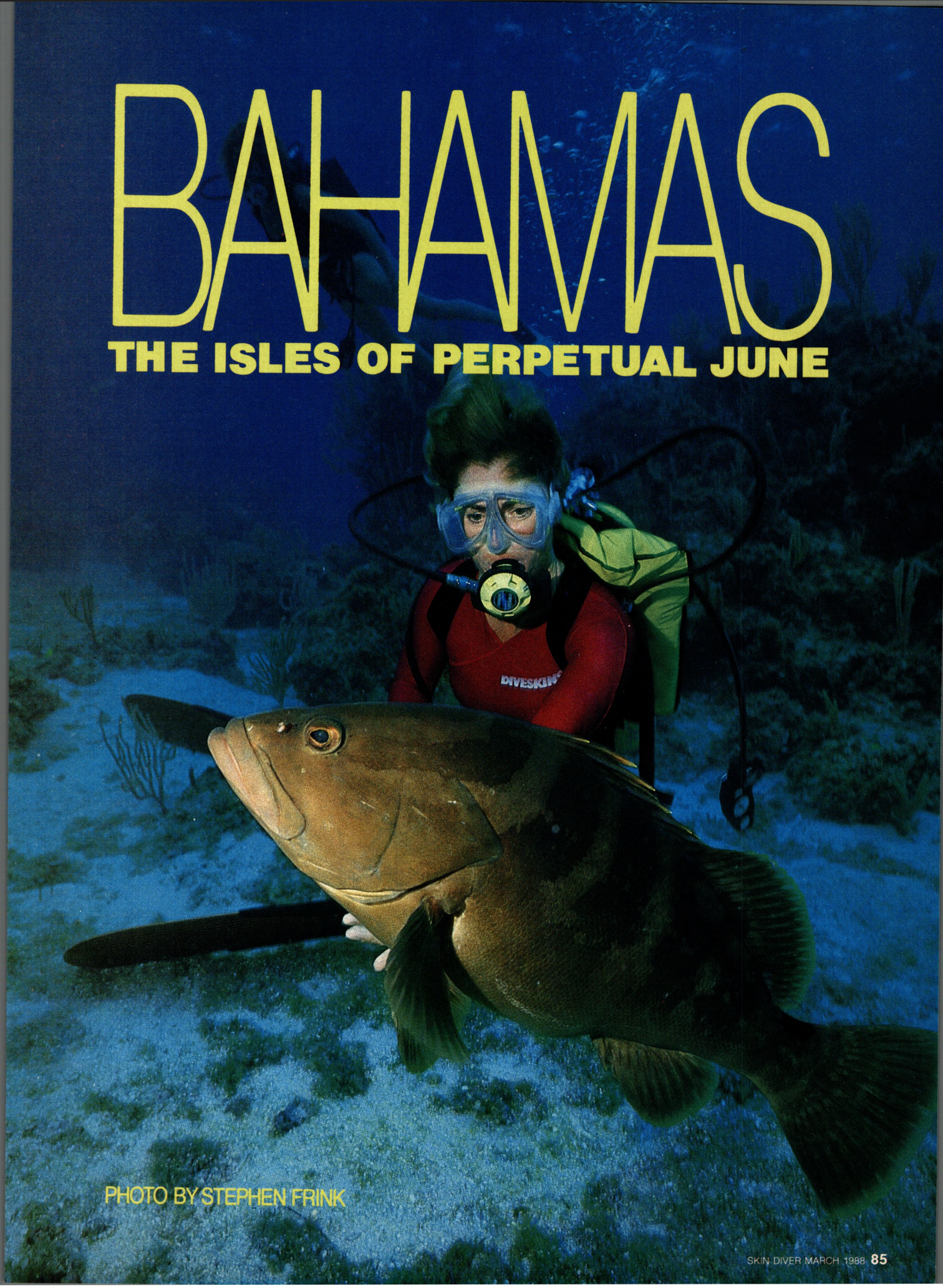


PHOTO BY STEPHEN FRINK







BAHAMAS

SPARKLING WATERS AND TROPICAL NIGHTS BECKON FUN SEEKING DIVERS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

George Washington visited the Bahamas in the late 1700s and lyrically referred to them as the "Isles of Perpetual June." The description was an apt allusion to the magnificent climate of these islands, with year-round warm weather and only a 12°F variation between the warmest and coldest month. Even though it's hard to imagine George Washington in shorts and a flowered tropical shirt, given his experience with winter at Valley Forge, those few idyllic moments spent lounging along a sun baked beach or lolling in the warm, gentle surf must have been special, indeed.

How surprised Washington would be today to realize the Bahamas are among the most accessible vacation destinations in the world, either by boat or by air. He would have been amazed by the proliferation of resort hotels, from luxury highrises to the quaint, charming guesthouses. Tourism has developed as the leading industry of the Bahamas, employing nearly three-quarters of the nation's population and generating much of its revenue. If George Washington could visit the Bahamas now, he would see modern cities beyond his wildest fantasy in Nassau and Freeport, but he would also see crystalline waters and miles of serene beach unchanged by the passage of time.



The Bahamas are a collection of more than 700 islands and countless islets and charted rock formations scattered across a picturesque aquamarine stretch of ocean. Some islands feature sophisticated urban centers and others may offer only a grass airstrip and rustic fishing camp. The sea occupies more than 20 times the surface area of the land in the Bahamas, so it is not surprising these islands offer a tremendous variety of watersports including sailing, parasailing, windsurfing, scuba and more. The diving is some of the finest in the world, ranging from steep walls to lush coral reefs to wrecks. Accommodations include highrise hotels, remote dive lodges and everything in between.



BAHAMAS

The most astonishing development might be the modern marvel known as scuba diving. A whole industry has evolved to take air breathing terrestrials beneath the magnificent tropical seas of the Bahamas to explore a colorful, exciting and alien universe. Assuming the buoyancy from his wooden teeth did not provide too great an impediment, this safe and easy access to the world beneath the Bahamas' sea might have proved the greatest miracle of all, were time travel possible for the founding father of the United States.

The Bahamas are a collection of more than 700 islands and countless islets and charted rock formations scattered across a picturesque aquamarine ocean of more than 100,000 square miles. Of these 700 islands, fewer than 30 sustain inhabitants and only 20 can be construed as developed. In fact, New Providence, which is among the smallest of the populated islands, contains 65 percent of the population, most of whom live in the nation's capital city of Nassau. Grand Bahama, and its major city Freeport, account for another 15 percent of the population. The remaining 20 percent may be found scattered throughout the Family Islands in pockets of settlement, primarily on Andros, the Abacos, Eleuthera, Long Island and the Biminis.

The entire population of the Bahamas is estimated at less than 250,000, as compared to more than 2.5 million foreign arrivals each year. The proximity and ease of travel to the Bahamas is one of the major attractions for North American tourists. With the nearest of the Bahamas within 50 miles of the Florida coastline, both air and sea travel are practical and recent estimates suggest that some 55 percent arrive by air while 45 percent come by sea.

Air travelers will find connections to Nassau and Freeport quite easy and inexpensive from major gateways in the eastern U.S. and Canada, with at least eight major airlines and a number of smaller commuter airlines providing daily service. The Family Islands are also well served by direct charter and commuter flights from Ft. Lauderdale and Miami International airports, as well as by connecting flights from Nassau and Freeport. At present, there are direct scheduled air departures into the Bahamas from dozens of major cities including Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Orlando, Tampa, Boston, St. Louis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Hartford, Providence, Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Montreal, Toronto and London. Clearly, no other dive destination offers the number of direct air transit options that are available in the Bahamas.

The sea occupies nearly 20 times the surface area of the land in the Bahamas. With such a massive and spectacular natural resource offshore, it is not surprising that boat transportation has developed as both a form of commerce and recreation. There are more than one dozen cruise lines plying Bahamian routes, with Nassau being the most frequent destination. Freeport and the Family Islands are being included on the itineraries with greater frequency these days. Live-aboard dive boats departing from Miami, Miami Beach and Ft. Lauderdale are an interesting travel option for tourists wishing to maximize their in-water dive time.

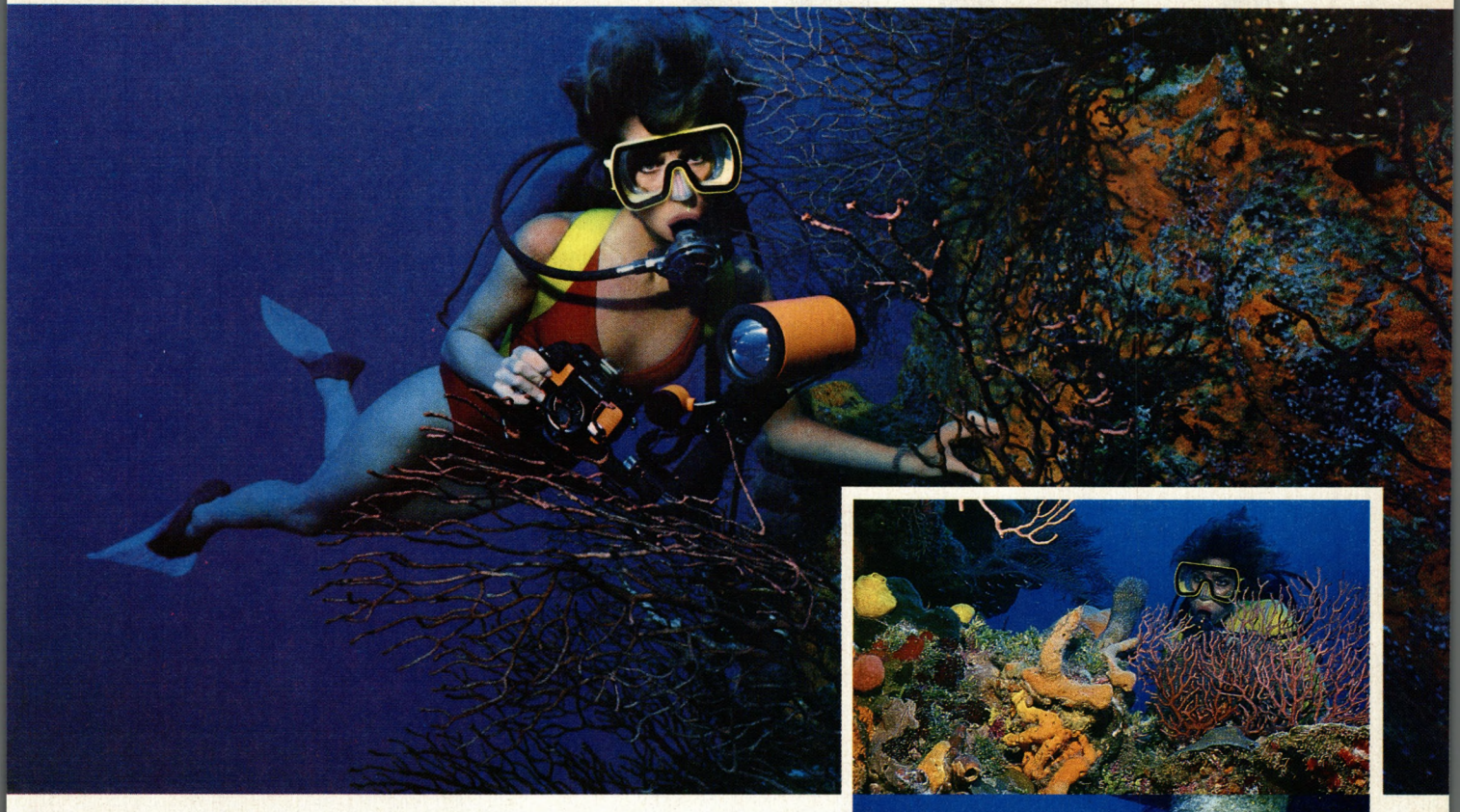
Yachtsmen have long regarded the Bahamas as a prime cruising ground. The nearest of the islands, Bimini, only 42 nautical miles from the Miami seabuoy, is just a two hour cruise for a moderately

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United Airlines	(312) 569-3000	Chicago	Freeport, Nassau
Walker's Cay Airlines	(305) 523-5947	Ft. Lauderdale	Walker's Cay

The Bahamas.

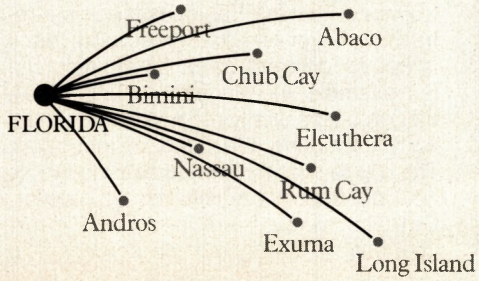
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The formalities of customs and immigration within the Bahamas are fairly straightforward as is befitting a country that so enthusiastically embraces tourism as a primary industry. United States citizens are not required to present passport or visa if the stay is limited to eight months or less. A birth certificate or voter's registration card is adequate. Visitors from Canada and the United Kingdom also do not need passports or visas for visits up to three weeks and can use birth certificates or medical cards if preferred. Citizens of all other countries are required to carry passports.

Bahamas Port of Entry stations may be found in the Abacos, Andros, the Berry Islands, Bimini, Cat Cay, Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama, New Providence, San Salvador and Long Island. Once admitted to the country via the Port of Entry, travel within the country is unrestricted. A departure tax will be collected when visitors leave the Bahamas; this is $5 for adults and $2.50 for each child under 12, with infants exempted. All bags are subject to inspection when entering the country but an oral declaration is usually sufficient. As is expected of foreign travel, prohibited articles include nonprescription drugs and narcotics, firearms and animals without a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Travelers with large collections of camera gear may meet with greater scrutiny. Customs officials want assurance that gear is not intended for resale within the islands, thereby circumventing applicable import duties. It is a good idea to pre-register photo equipment and expensive jewelry with U.S. Customs before entering the country. I have found the office of Bahamas Sports Information at (800) 32-SPORT most helpful in terms of dive travel information. This office is invaluable when planning an extensive photojournalistic tour of the islands.

Once within the Bahamas there is a refreshing flavor of a foreign country, but it is not so different as to be intimidating. For example, the language is English, although occasionally rendered with an initially confusing West Indian inflection. The currency, the Bahamian dollar, is held at exact parity with the U.S. dollar. Both currencies are accepted interchangeably throughout the country. The

The other side of Nassau.



Peter Hughes at "Runway"







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BAHAMAS

time zone is the same as Miami or New York, i.e. Eastern Standard Time from late October through April and Daylight Savings Time for the rest of the year. Even the electrical service in the Bahamas is the same 110 volts, 60 cycles as is standard in the U.S. However, on some of the Family Islands, it might be provided by a generator that may experience an occasional power surge or may not operate 24 hours per day.

The weather patterns for the Bahamas follow the two primary seasons, winter and summer. While the temperature is warm and pleasant year-round, the Bahamian winter (mid-November to mid-April) typically boasts daytime high temperatures between 70-80°F. In the summer (mid-April through mid-November) the average range is from 80-90°F. The sun shines nearly every day and if tropical showers do strike, they are usually of short duration. If a more severe tropical storm is to strike, it will likely come sometime between June and November with August, September and October representing the highest risk months. Statistically, even the high risks of hurricane season in the Bahamas are not particularly high. Historically, severe storms strike land in this area only about once every nine years.

So, when is the best time to visit the Bahamas? There are two schools of thought. In the winter, when ice and snow blanket the northlands, the Bahamas are beautifully warm and sunny. This is the high season for general tourism here. And, while the air temperatures remain balmy, the water temperature will drop from the 82-85°F range typical of the summer to the 70-76°F range of the winter. The seas are more likely to be affected by wind chop in the winter and water clarity will not be as good as it is in summer. However, the overall aspect of a winter vacation in the Bahamas is quite alluring, especially when considered as an escape from the prevailing frigid conditions found elsewhere.

Summer, on the other hand, brings seas that are constantly calm and warm, blessed with U/W visibility well in excess of 100 feet in most places. The heat of the day is moderated by a slight cooling trade wind and the ocean is refreshingly attractive. Hotel rates are often better bargains in the summer "low" season, even though diving conditions are consistently better. In terms of when it is best to visit the Bahamas, both winter and summer vacations have tremendous appeal. Perhaps the answer, given the reasonable air fares and access of the islands, is to consider both summer *and* winter vacations.

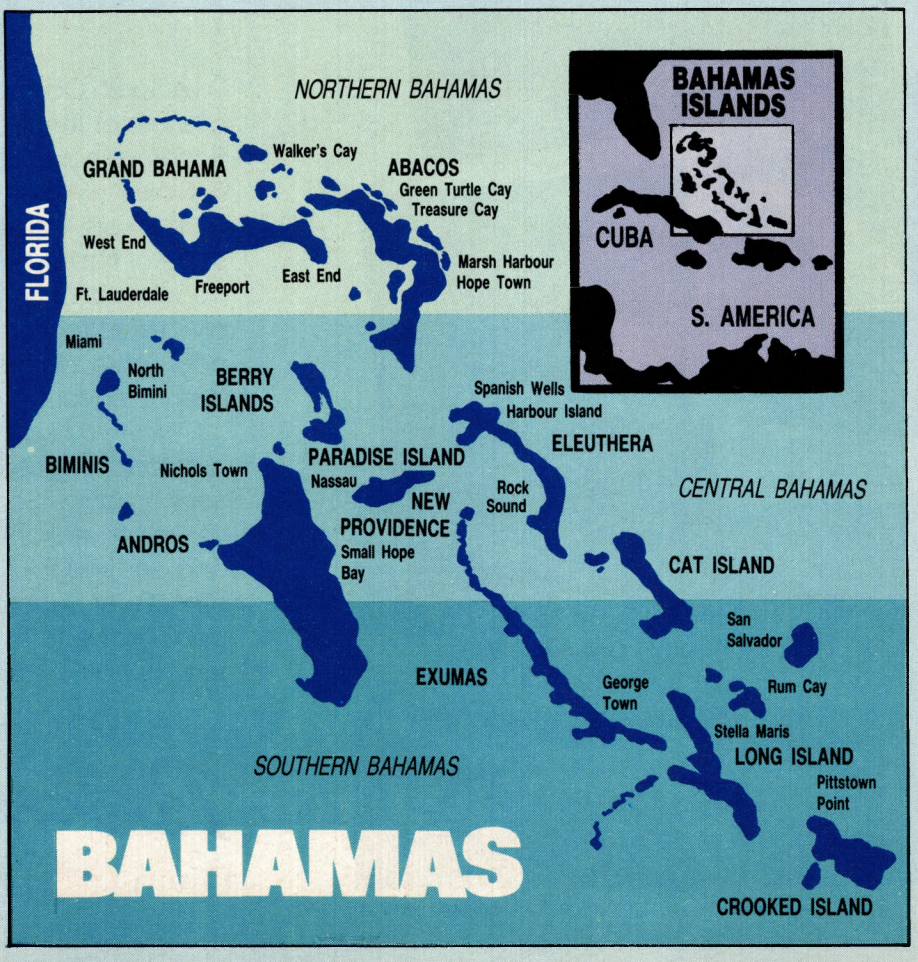
The Bahamas are difficult to describe or categorize, either above or below the surface of the sea, owing to the tremendous diversity inherent within this vast nation of islands. With more than 500 miles of latitude separating the northernmost islands from those in the south, climate and prevailing sea conditions will differ to an extent. Basic diving conditions may also vary since some islands may be near the Gulf Stream, others near the Tongue of the Ocean or others bordered by the Great Bahama Bank (or some combination thereof). Some islands are hilly, lush and verdant while others are predominantly flat and arid. Some islands feature sophisticated urban centers of population with highrise resort hotels, international banking and duty free shopping. Development on other islands may only consist of a grass airstrip and perhaps a rustic fishing camp. There is a collective entity known as the Bahamas, but there is no single "Bahamas." To select a dive destination within the islands requires a careful analysis of what is available and then matching this information to individual vacation needs. The following summary of the nation's dive options is intended to facilitate that choice.

NEW PROVIDENCE/NASSAU

The island is New Providence, but the major center of population and capital of the Bahamas is Nassau. They are in no way synonymous, yet are often confused. The island is 21 miles long by 7 miles wide and much of it is flat with a ridge of low hills along the north coast. New Providence has a diverse topography with the eastern end of the island mainly bordered by rocky shore, while the southern coast is a flat, swampy area and western New Providence is cloaked in pine forest. The main centers of diving activity occur in Nassau, Lyford Cay and Coral Harbour.

Nassau is a bustling city of commerce and government. It is so bustling that traffic can be a major problem on some of the busy downtown thoroughfares during the week. Banking is serious business with more than 400 banks established in Nassau according to the Bahamas' strict bank secrecy laws. With the frequent cruise ship arrivals, Bay Street often seems awash in a sea of humanity, for it is here the largest selection of shops is found. With no sales tax and minimal import duties on European perfume, English bone china, Irish linens, Swiss watches and German and Japanese cameras, Bahamas shopping can be a bargain hunter's dream. Note that not every merchant will choose to pass the savings on to the consumer. Comparison shopping for prices of the same merchandise back home is a good preparation for a Bahamas shopping spree.

Nassau and nearby Paradise Island



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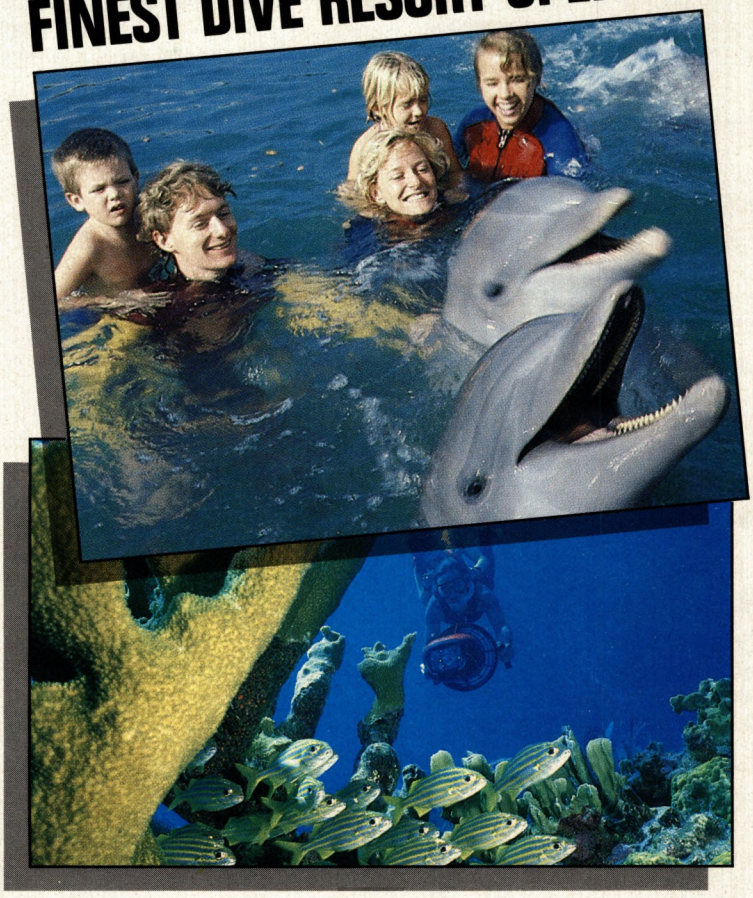


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Lucaya is located on 2 miles of the finest white coral sand beach on Grand Bahama Island and has a choice of quality hotels and great diving packages. No other Caribbean destination has a luxurious 20,000 square foot casino like the Lucayan Beach Resort & Casino, right on the beach.

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BAHAMAS

and Cable Beach feature lavish highrise hotels, collectively offering thousands of hotel rooms, casinos and cabaret shows as well as a full complement of watersports. Dive services for guests of the hotels in this area may be provided by operators in the downtown area such as BAHAMA DIVERS, SEA & SKI SPORTS or SUN DIVERS; or may be accommodated by the courtesy bus service that will transfer divers to the western end of the island to dive with STUART COVE'S NASSAU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES or DIVE, DIVE, DIVE.

The downtown dive operators have built strong businesses by offering resort course and full scuba instruction programs, and by primarily diving the areas in the vicinity of Nassau that are relatively short boat rides from their docks. Cruise ship customers are frequently accommodated on these boats as well and since most of the clientele has limited experience, the dives are not terribly challenging. The natural coral reefs are relatively shallow and have hosted thousands of divers over the years.

One of the favorites is not a reef at all, but the wreck of the ***Mahoney***, a 212 foot freighter sunk in 45 feet of water as the result of the 1929 hurricane. Here the fish are used to being handfed and are tame.

An exciting new addition to the Nassau dive scene occurred as the harbor was cleaned up, creating four more intentionally sunk shipwrecks that have been added to the daily dive itinerary. Sunk in only 40-80 feet of water, these steel hulled freighters will become more interesting artificial reefs every year.

Stuart Cove's Nassau Undersea Adventures is in Lyford Cay, an exclusive enclave of majestic homes and luxury on the western tip of New Providence, just 20 minutes from downtown Nassau. Undersea Adventures features dive/lodging packages with the comfortably secluded ORANGE HILL BEACH INN and 11 other island hotels and offers a bus pick-up service at any of the others. A call to Nassau Undersea Adventures will arrange courtesy transport to the dockside dive shop and passage aboard one of three custom boats to the spectacular dive sites so very near offshore.

The dive fleet includes a 40 foot custom twin diesel flattop, a 30 foot diesel V-hull and a 25 foot Mako twin outboard used for specialty charters and interisland dive excursions. All three boats are equipped with tank racks and extended ladders with dive platforms. A fourth boat has just joined the fleet, a venerable 60 foot steel hulled single diesel craft that is being renovated.

With twin compressors, guest gear storage lockers, a large complement of modern dive gear, retail center, underwater photo program and a staff of ten, including six instructors, Nassau Undersea Adventures is a very complete dive operation. It is also one that has enjoyed a great deal of repeat business from the Hollywood underwater film community. According to owner Stuart Cove, "Nassau Undersea Adventures is part of a support group that provides logistical aid and assistance to major TV and motion picture studios. But, that is not our day-to-day business—recreational diving is. It is comforting to know the same professionalism and underwater know-how that has attracted Hollywood is available to the sport diver.

The newest dive option on New Providence comes from a reliable and well respected source. PETER HUGHES DIVING and Divi Hotel Corporation have once again collaborated to create DIVE SOUTH OCEAN AT DIVI BAHAMAS BEACH RESORT AND COUNTRY CLUB. At present the hotel is a 120 room complex with a three year expansion plan that includes a casino, time-share condominiums and perhaps as many as 1,000 rooms. There is a beautiful 18 hole golf course with clubhouse, freshwater

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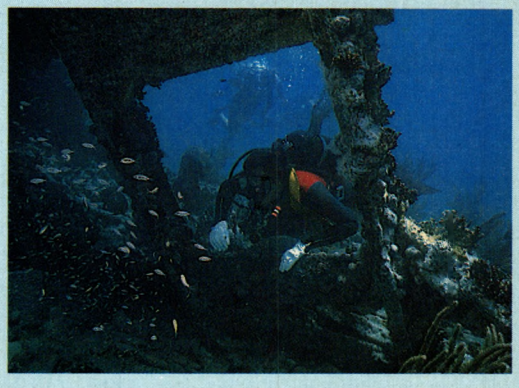


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swimming pool, a restaurant and bar, gift shops and, of course, a dive operation that mirrors the efficiency and professionalism of Peter Hughes dive centers throughout the Caribbean.

Under the able direction of Harry Ward, who once headed dive operations at Spanish Cove and Dive Bonaire, a full watersports program has been implemented. Sailboards, Sunfish and a catamaran may be rented along the majestic 900 feet of beachfront. A new dive center has been erected alongside a canal that provides protected dockage for the dive boats and quick, easy access to the lee-side dive sites just offshore. The boats are 39 foot custom fiberglass vessels designed for diver convenience by Peter Hughes with a flying bridge, tank racks, dive platform and extended ladders, protection from sea spray, and a 350 horsepower V-8 diesel, capable of 24 knots, providing ample power. Presently, the *Stenella* and *Delphinus* (genera of dolphin likely to be seen in the waters of New Providence) comprise the fleet, but as more rooms are added to the hotel, more boats will be placed into service.

The south side of the island is the predominant lee, and both Dive South Ocean and Nassau Undersea Adventures are near the best dive sites. **Clifton Wall** begins in only 45 feet of water and plunges vertically to 6,000 feet, typical of so many of the Tongue of the Ocean drop-offs nearby. Here, huge schools of reef fish adorn the high profile corals at the top of the wall while orange elephant ear and purple tube sponges provide the color accents along the descent. Black coral is commonly seen and visibility is usually quite excellent.

Sand Chute Wall and Tunnel Wall are two more favorites among the dozens of drop-offs dived on a regular basis. Sand Chute Wall is marked by a large, sandy bowl, channeling into a narrow passage to the wall. Most guided tours will descend through the chute and swim east along the wall until a 40 foot trawler (intentionally sunk as a dive attraction) looms mysteriously (and precariously) at the lip of the drop-off.

Tunnel Wall begins in only 30 feet of water. From 30-80 feet there is a network of crevices and tunnels leading from the shallow reef to the vertical wall face. For wide angle grandeur, this is a magnificent wall and the pelagics constantly parading by make the dive especially fascinating. Hammerhead sharks are occasionally spied here while schooling jacks, eagle rays and barracudas are predictably present. While the wall along the south side of the island is comprised mostly of sponges and hard corals, Tunnel Wall is on the north side and more exposed to the prevailing winds. It features more soft corals, gorgonians and colorful seafans.

One of my favorite dives is the shallow coral garden at **Goulding Cay**. With a 25 foot maximum depth and many glorious stands of elkhorn coral coming up to the surface, Goulding Cay has been featured in many films, including most recently, *For Your Eyes Only*. Fish life is abundant, but it is the acres of pristine coral that are most impressive. Given the fragile nature of the staghorn and elkhorn corals here, divers must be most careful.

The James Bond films have contributed fascinating underwater props to be enjoyed by future sport divers. There still remain the tangled, encrusted ribbing of an airplane from *Thunderball* and, nearby, the upright 100 foot freighter known as the *Tears of Allah*, which was the site of the underwater shark encounter in *Never Say Never Again*. **The Runway** is a naturally occurring phenomenon wherein a 40 foot sand bottom hosts dozens of tame southern stingrays as easy to approach and photograph as if they were Hollywood extras.

GRAND BAHAMA/FREEPORT

Next to Nassau and Paradise Island, Grand Bahama is the most frequently visited tourist destination in the Bahamas. There is good reason for the island's popularity. With miles of sandy beach, a wide variety of comfortable hotel accommodations, gambling casinos and cabaret shows, tennis, golf, watersports of every nature, duty free shopping and superior airline and cruise ship connections, Freeport is currently enjoying an exciting surge of development.

Freeport originated as the project of Wallace Groves, a Virginia financier, who fancied the proximity of Grand Bahama to the mainland U.S., the large reserves of ground water and the immense stands of timber to feed his lumber interests. He negotiated the Hawksbill Creek Agreement with the government in 1955 and received concessions on the importation of duty free material and freedom from taxation of any kind. He signed a lease purchase agreement for 50,000 acres and, in return, built a deepwater harbor, encouraged industry and agreed to significantly underwrite the necessary government services. The grand experiment in Grand Bahama gradually progressed as industry on the island matured, but in the 1960s the development of tourism pointed the way to the island's future. On New Year's Eve 1963 the luxury LUCAYAN BEACH HOTEL opened with Freeport's first gambling casino. Another propitious gamble that occurred the same year concerned the fledgling sport of scuba diving. A group of adventurous entrepreneurs established the Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO) in Freeport and initiated many of the sport diving and scuba instruction innovations we enjoy even now, 25 years later.

UNEXSO operates its primary dive center in Freeport and a branch facility at the **Jack Tar Village** on the West End of Grand Bahama. The Freeport complex features a modern retail center, spacious classrooms for the instructional programs always in session, a newly refurbished 18 foot deep training tank, a shallow freshwater swimming pool, guest gear storage lockers and a very complete underwater photo center devoted both to still underwater and video imagery. The Tide's Inn restaurant and bar is conveniently above the retail center and is especially popular as an aprés dive gathering spot.

The UNEXSO/Freeport dive fleet consists of the 30 foot *Explorer II*, 40 foot *Explorer I*, 42 foot *Biene* and the 27 foot *Rio Rita*. All four vessels are diesel powered fiberglass V-hulls and, of course, they are well equipped for diver comfort and convenience with tank racks, dive platforms with extended ladders and spacious aft dive decks. UNEXSO/West End is also served by a 30 foot dive boat, the *Easy Diver*. In both locations the boats are docked close to the compressors and gear storage areas as a further convenience to traveling divers and staff.

Two exciting innovations have been introduced at UNEXSO within the past year. **Shark Shot Reef** is in 45 feet of water and is the home of two of the sea's most feared predators, the prehistoric hammerhead and sleek and deadly mako shark. Only here at Shark Shot Reef the peril is fantasy, for these sharks are specially constructed fiberglass life-sized models tethered to the seabed with monofilament line. The intent is to provide a little comic relief—lighthearted underwater photo props to supplement an impressive array of natural reefs and wrecks off Freeport.

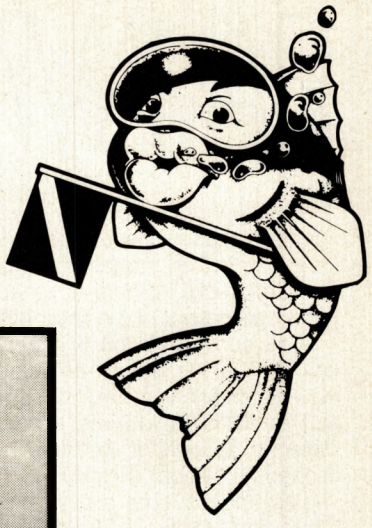
The **Dolphin Experience** is an ambitious project whereby UNEXSO divers will one day be able to swim with trained Atlantic bottlenose dolphins in the open ocean. At present, the six dolphins are being trained in a holding pen in the ocean adjacent to the boat docks so divers can observe the training procedures—or participate. During a recent visit to UNEXSO I had the opportunity to swim with and photograph these intelligent marine mammals and find it to be an incredibly satisfying experience. When the day comes for the ocean release program to be implemented, the Dolphin Experience will be one of sport diving's most thrilling opportunities.

Other areas of particular diver interest around Freeport include ***Theo's Wreck***, a 230 foot steel freighter intentionally sunk as a diver attraction and now lying on her port side in 100 feet of water. Recently, this wreck has gained considerable marine growth and the colorful sponges, corals and gorgonians provide habitats for an ever-increasing number of fish. Less grand, but still impressive, is the wreck of the ***Jose*** in just 50 feet of water. While *Theo's* sits on the edge of

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the continental shelf, the *Jose* is on a dense medium depth reef and has already attracted thousands of baitfish, as well as jacks, groupers, snappers and other predators of the food chain.

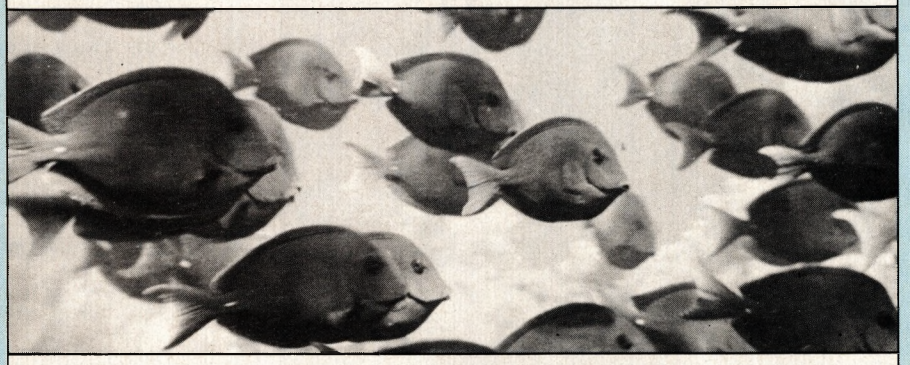
The coral reefs off Freeport have organized along deep, medium and shallow depth shelves, and UNEXSO will dive all three depth levels as well as the wrecks as part of its three times daily schedule of boat departures. Inland blue holes and caverns are also part of the dive itinerary. Recently, one of the world's most beautiful underwater cave systems, **Ben's Cave**, has been reopened on a very limited basis by the Bahamas National Trust. A signup board helps facilitate the dive of choice and, all considered, UNEXSO carries out its tremendous instructional and resort diving load with model efficiency.

The UNEXSO dive center at JACK TAR VILLAGE serves a dual role. Not only does it stand alone as the gateway to the exceptional dive sites of West End such as **Memory Rock**, **Sherwood Forest**, the **Sugar Wreck** and **Shark Reef**, but the reciprocity privileges between the Freeport and West End facilities assure the very best of Grand Bahama diving is available to UNEXSO divers, regardless of where they choose to stay.

FAMILY ISLANDS

Formerly known as the "Out Islands," the Family Islands of the Bahamas are remote, mysterious and engagingly beautiful. For much of the nation's history, travel and communication among these islands was difficult and tied to the vagaries of ocean travel. To sail from Miami to Bimini took 12 hours and several days were necessary to travel from Nassau to Long Island. Today's faster boats significantly reduce the crossing times, but the era of modern travel to the Bahamas was introduced in 1919 when Arthur Burns "Pappy" Chalk began piloting a three seat Stinson Voyager and a Curtiss HS-2L floatplane between the Bahamas and Miami. CHALK'S is still flying today to either Bimini, Cat Cay or Paradise Island and its perfect safety record reflects the thrill it is to "fly a legend." The BAHAMASAIR familiar blue and yellow Hawker Sidley 48 passenger prop planes further opened the Family Islands to convenient air travel and today are supplemented by the wide range of airlines, private and charter aircraft that crisscrosses this island nation.

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BIMINI

While the Bahamas are closer to United States at Bimini than at any other point, there is a huge cultural, economic and geographic chasm separating the two. The Bimini Islands compose a flat string extending 28 miles with North Bimini at the top, followed by South Bimini, Turtle Rocks, Piquet Rocks, Holm Cay, North and South Cat Cays, Sandy Cay and Ocean Cay. The chief center of population is Alice Town on North Bimini although, in itself, that isn't saying much.

Alice Town is a rather charming, and occasionally raucous, big game fishing and diving town, but by no means could it be considered urban. The main thoroughfare, optimistically named the King's Highway, is a narrow, dusty lane where bars outnumber the shops and marinas dominate the seascape. This is a town with a long tradition of having fun. Since the 1930s the rich and adventurous have chosen Bimini as their escape. Ernest Hemingway increased public awareness of the islands with the publication of *Islands in the Stream*. Local Hemingway memorabilia is still prominently evident at the Compleat Angler Bar and Hotel, a lasting testament to the man who wrote, drank, fished and brawled through several seasons in Bimini.

Today, fishing and scuba diving are responsible for the tourist influx to these islands. And today, unlike the 1930s, it is not only the rich and famous visiting daily. Today Bimini is both inexpensive and accessible. If it were analyzed, it would be the Gulf Stream more than any other single factor that has caused the enduring popularity of these islands for watersports enthusiasts. It is also the Gulf Stream that makes the diving in Bimini so unlike the conditions in Miami or Ft. Lauderdale only 42 miles to the east. Flowing just one mile offshore, the Gulf Stream is like a 50 mile wide canyon separating the Biminis from the U.S. and through that canyon runs an immense underwater river of sparkling clarity and rich marine life.

For divers, this means water clarity often in excess of 100 feet; exciting pelagic species such as tuna, eagle rays, sharks, turtles and jacks cruising by; and rich nutrients to sustain reef dwellers and the abundant hard corals and sponges that so beautifully decorate shallows offshore.

Diver services are enthusiastically and competently provided by Bill and Nowdla Keefe's BIMINI UNDERSEA ADVENTURES. Perhaps a note to clarify is in order here for divers who have been with Bimini Undersea Adventures in the past. Bill and Nowdla bought the operation in May 1987 from founder and dive industry legend Neal Watson. Bill and Nowdla had worked with Neal at Bimini in the past and, in fact, managed the dive center for several years. Now, Bimini Undersea Adventures is independently owned, but is an affiliate member of NEAL WATSON'S UNDERSEA ADVENTURES, which also



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books trips to Andros, Chub Cay and Nassau. This gives the advantage of an efficient stateside reservations system under the direction of Neal Watson—who, of course, knows Bimini and the diving there better than anyone—as well as a resident owner/operator team anxious to improve the professionalism and diver convenience of the operation.

Among the improvements already instituted is the addition of a new 42 foot twin diesel dive boat. The *Adventurer* is U.S. Coast Guard certified for 32 passengers (even though Coast Guard certification is unnecessary in Bahamian waters) and is outfitted with the normal diver accouterments, including tank racks, extended dive ladders, marine electronics and a spacious dive deck.

The *Humble One* is considered a back-up vessel for small groups and is a 32 foot diesel V-hull. All new aluminum 80 cubic foot tanks have replaced the steel tanks and new rental gear—including BC jackets, regulators with pressure/depth gauges and power inflaters, new masks

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Dive/lodging packages are still available with the BIG GAME FISHING CLUB and BROWN'S HOTEL, but a new package with the COMPLEAT ANGLER offers yet another medium priced alternative. With the inexpensive round trip air fare from Miami on Chalk's (the airline exclusively used with Bimini Undersea Adventures packages), short travel times facilitating diving on the day of arrival and departure, and the quality of the diving so nearby Bimini, these dive packages have proved to be bargains.

The wall is deep here, beginning at 120 feet off Bimini and as shallow as 70 feet around Cat Cay. The sights are quite thrilling, however, with dense concentrations of gorgonians and other colorful filter feeders adorning the top of the wall, and whip corals, black corals and tube sponges jutting into the depths. A controlled drift dive to 130 feet is the way Bill and Nowdla present the **Continental Shelf** and, while effortless and magnificent, the eight and one-half minute bottom time passes all too quickly.

More dive time is available at other sites such as **Rainbow Reef**, where in only 20-25 feet of water huge concentrations of grunts and goatfish often obscure the low profile coral heads. Here it is common to see nurse sharks sleeping beneath shallow coral overhangs. This is where Canadian cinematographer John Stoneman erected an underwater statue of Christ dedicated to the preservation of the sea and in celebration of the establishment of the marine sanctuary off Bimini. Here anything of marine origin must stay in the water. Therefore, there is no spearfishing, no lobster collection, no coral collection and no taking of shells, either living or dead.

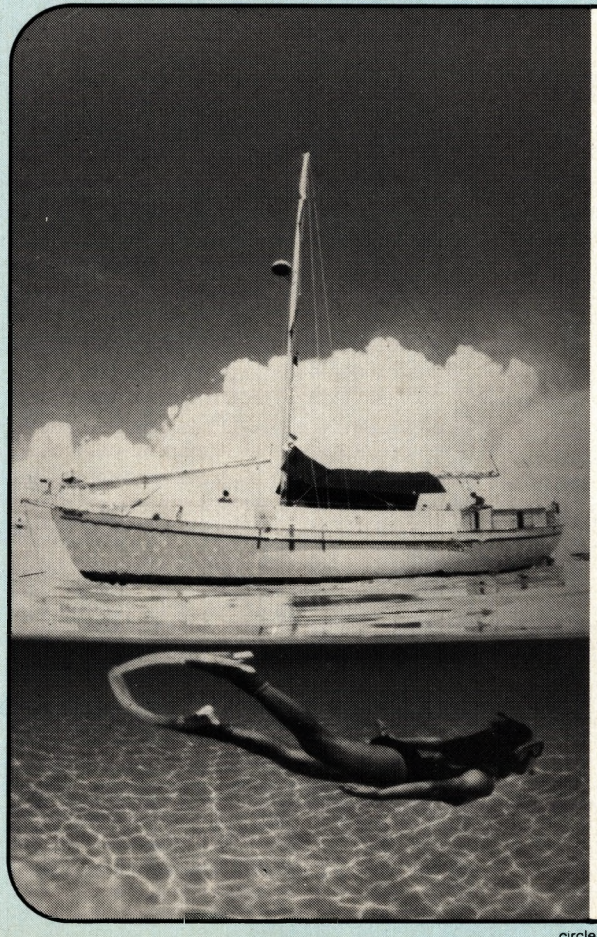
The shipwreck ***Sapona*** is one of my favorite dives in the Biminis, even though it is only in 15 feet of water. Much of the ship's imposing hulk sits above the waterline. The massive concentration of marine life and abundant macro subjects coating the hull below the waterline offer countless hours of photographic opportunity. The openings perforating the ferrocement sides of the ship provide easy access to the interior.

The Victories are a farther boat run from Bimini, but are offered at least weekly, typically as a three tank all day scuba safari. Here, along a sloping reef face from 40-80 feet, are beautiful tropical fish, colorful orange and purple sponges, gorgonians and the ever-present probability of unusual pelagic species.

THE BERRY ISLANDS

Barely 500 people make the Berry Islands their permanent home, for this small chain of islands is predominantly low-lying with minimal water or arable soil. Yet, the beauty of the world just beyond their shores has attracted countless ocean going tourists over the years. Sailfish, blue marlin and giant bluefin tuna have tempted sportfishermen and, at the southernmost end of the chain, the CHUB CAY CLUB represents a pocket of civilization erected to the pursuit of gamefish. The Chub Cay Club is a self-sufficient resort that has been operating for more than 26 years. In recent years the facilities have been open to the public as well as private club members. There is a 15 room hotel with an adjacent freshwater swimming pool, tennis courts, restaurant and bar, ship's store and marina. For scuba divers the distinguishing amenity of the Chub Cay Club is the dockside dive shop, home to NEAL WATSON'S CHUB CAY UNDERSEA ADVENTURES.

A pair of deep-V diesel powered boats will transport day divers to fascinating U/W vistas just 10-15 minutes from the docks. For those capturing their memories on film, an efficient E-6 processing lab, under the direction of resident photo pro Frazier Nivens, will allow quick analysis of the results, which will likely be rich with marine life. The deep Tongue of the Ocean meets the shallow Great Bahama Bank at Chub Cay and rich nutrients attract blue and white marlin, sailfish, wa-



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hoo, dolphins, yellowfin tuna, snappers, groupers and amberjacks. These, in turn, attract sportfishermen.

While the species are different along the reefline and more the traditional sightings divers are accustomed to throughout the Caribbean, the populations are dense enough to have earned Chub Cay the nickname "Fishbowl of the Bahamas." Among the favorite sites for visiting divers is the **Chub Cay Wall**. Beginning in only 80 feet of water, this vertical wall is predictably rich in eagle ray and shark sightings when glancing seaward. A study of the face of the wall will reveal an amazing tapestry of color and texture: black corals, orange elephant ear sponges, azure vase sponges, brilliant whip corals, groupers, angelfish and the ever-present barracudas.

At the other extreme from a vertical drop to 6,000 feet is a magnificent coral garden in only 10-20 feet of water, **Mama Rhoda Reef**. Here acres of undamaged elkhorn coral rise to within inches of the surface and are populated by large schools of grunts and goatfish. When the sun is bright and the water calm and clear, this may be one of the finest snorkeling reefs in the Bahamas.

Somewhere in between these extremes is a system of shallow and medium depth reefs such as **Canyons and Caves**. Here is a reef system paralleling the shore, intersected by tunnels and overhangs sheltering a huge profusion of marine life. Angelfish, glass minnows, barracudas, Atlantic spadefish, groupers, eels and triggerfish are likely to be sighted on any dive and most are approachable enough to be easily photographed.

THE ABACOS

One hundred six miles north of Nassau and 200 miles northeast of Miami, the Abacos resemble a 130 mile bejeweled boomerang from the air. If you travel to the Abacos by air you will land either at Treasure Cay on the north end of Great Abaco, Marsh Harbour at the island's center or Walker's Cay on Walker's International Airline. Diving services are available at Walker's Cay, Marsh Harbour, Green Turtle Cay and Treasure Cay.

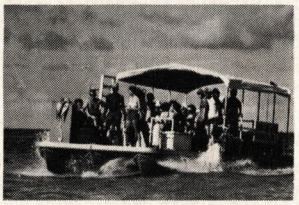
For visitors to the TREASURE CAY RESORT, diving is part of the all-inclusive package and may not be purchased á la carte. Most of the watersports have been moved from concessions on Treasure Cay to Treasure Island (the resort's appellation for its holdings on Great Guana Cay). Here, among broad sandy beaches lining both the windward and leeward shores, is the dive operation with its compressors and three outboard powered flattops. By moving the entire dive operation to great Guana Cay, the boat rides to the best diving are minimized. Since you have to get to Great Guana Cay by boat, no real time saving is realized, rather a wider range of watersports is available during the day trips to the island. Most dive days are single tank excursions and, by their own estimation, the program is not necessarily targeted to the hard core diving enthusiast.

Green Turtle Cay is easily reached via ferry from Treasure Cay and is home to the GREEN TURTLE CLUB, a low key but comfortable resort development with 31 suites and villas, freshwater lap pool, restaurant, lounge and marina. BRENDAL'S DIVE SHOP LTD. is the dive operation on Green Turtle Cay. It is owned and operated by Brendal Stevens from a dockside dive center on White Sound (which consists of a small retail shop, compressor, rental scuba gear and a 29 foot aluminum pontoon boat powered by a 70 horsepower outboard). Most sites are within 20 minutes of the dock and both Treasure Cay and Green Turtle Cay tend to dive the same basic areas, although each has sites unique to its individual itineraries.

Probably the most often requested of these dive sites is the wreck of the ***San Jacinto***. One of the first steamships ever made in the United States, the *San Jacinto* ran aground in less than 40 feet of water in 1865. While weather and explosive concessions to the clearing of navigational hazards have taken most of the superstructure, the boiler, keel and some of the transom remain intact. This wreck has attracted abundant marine life. Two resident green morays have been handfed by divemasters for many years and are consequently most approachable. Shallow reefs, caverns and caves are beautiful additions to the wreck diving here. Among my favorites is the **Tarpon Dive** where a dozen curious tarpon will encircle the diver within a coral canyon at the 40 foot depth; and the **Catacombs**, featuring caverns open to penetrating shafts of sunlight and periodically filled with glass minnows and the attendant predators such as jacks and groupers.

WALKER'S CAY, at the upper end of the Bahamas chain, consists of 100 finely manicured acres of tropical resort. With a private airstrip and 75 boat slip marina, Walker's Cay is easily accessible by sea or air. The hotel has 62 rooms, four villas, two swimming pools, two bars, a restaurant, gift shop, commissary, tennis courts, disco and game room. Host to the world's largest private billfish tournament, Walker's Cay has been responsible for more IGFA records than any other single resort. While the fishing and diving imperatives do not exactly correspond, neither do they conflict at Walker's Cay;

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the marine life that attracts sportfishermen will likewise enthrall sport divers.

The dive operations include a full service dive shop, compressors, rental scuba cylinders and enough gear for a full house of scuba divers, all of which is under the direction of dive operations manager Sue Graves. Daily diving excursions employ a 34 foot deep-V diesel dive boat with walk-through transom, tank racks and other diver conveniences. Most of the dive sites are close to shore—usually less than a 20 minute boat ride away—and range in depth from 35-60 feet, although there is also a low profile deep reef in the 90-100 foot range. Among the more exciting dives are **White Hole**, where tame groupers rush to be handfed by Sue and the divemasters in only 35 feet of water; **Queen's Reef**, with its natural U/W coral amphitheater at 60 feet and resident angelfish; and **Queen's II**, with a mini-wall dropping from 35-60 feet and pelagic activity from jacks, yellowfin tuna, amberjacks and turtles possible as they come in to eat the nutrients being washed off the Great Bahama Bank.

MARSH HARBOUR is home to the third largest city in the Bahamas as well as hills and hardwood trees, good roads, a fine hotel and condominium accommodations, excellent restaurants and, of course, Skeet LaChance. A personality and fixture in the Bahamas dive scene since 1960, Captain Skeet brings a quiet professionalism to this small dive center known as DIVE ABACO. His 30 foot Island Hopper has been customized for diver convenience with tank racks and an oversized, stable dive platform, as well as a stern tank support system to assist divers with their tanks.

Fish feeding has been a traditional underwater activity for Skeet LaChance and the groupers at **Cathedral** and **Grouper Alley** have become quite friendly. The Cathedral is always lovely as sunlight streams into the caverns, but when the caverns are full of glass minnows—as most often happens in the summer—the effect is spellbinding.

Other dives in this area are generally shallow to medium depth coral reefs dotted with caverns, grottoes and swim-through caves. A few wrecks, such as the **USS *Adirondack***, in 20 feet of water; the 411 foot steel hulled sailing freighter ***Demira***, sunk in 30 feet of water; and the **Train Wreck**, two complete locomotives that sank with their support barge in Civil War days, complete the interesting dive fare off Marsh Harbour.

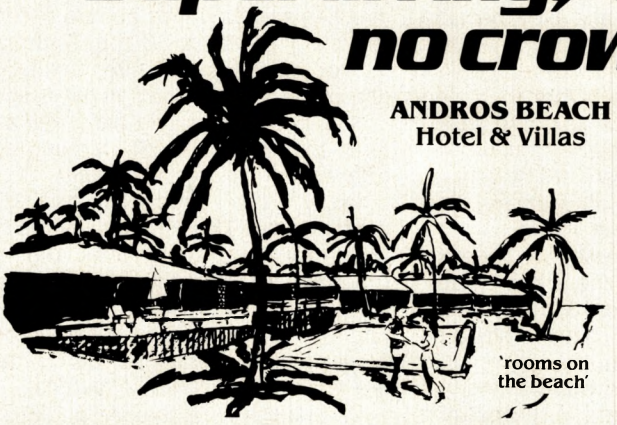
ELEUTHERA

In 1649 a group of religious dissidents left Bermuda by boat seeking refuge in the Bahamas and, when their boat wrecked off the northern end of Eleuthera (the Greek word for freedom), they settled and began to colonize the area, including Harbour Island and Spanish Wells. Colonists in Bermuda later exiled

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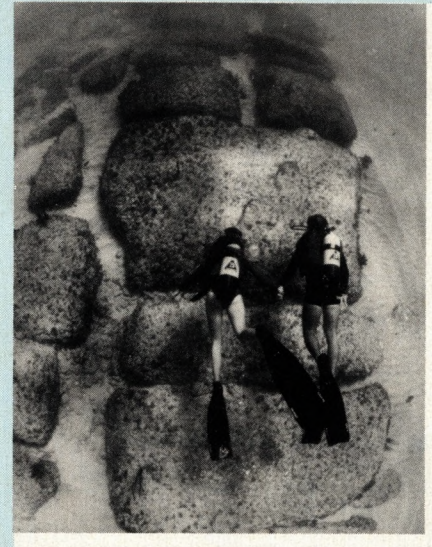
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troublesome slaves and the island's free Africans to Eleuthera and they became the first blacks to live in the Bahamas, arriving as free men and women. British Loyalists from the newly formed United States of America came later and added to the melting pot of cultures found here. All of these influences are still evident today in the settlements of Eleuthera, Harbour Island and Spanish Wells.

Divers visiting this area will find four dive operations on Eleuthera, two on Harbour Island and one on Spanish Wells. With Spanish Wells or Harbour Island as an intended destination, travelers should fly into North Eleuthera and connect via taxi and the appropriate ferry boat. On Harbour Island divers will be courteously and comfortably accommodated by either the Romora Bay Club or Valentine's Yacht Club and Inn. The ROMORA BAY CLUB has 30 double occupancy units scattered about a lush, nine acre former citrus plantation. The well appointed boats tie up to a dock conveniently close to the dive shop for the twice daily excursions. The diving services are ably handled by operations manager Jef Fox.

VALENTINE'S also sits at the water's edge in the heart of Dunmore Town and features 23 newly redecorated rooms and a new marina, a freshwater swimming pool, tennis courts, restaurant and lounge. The dive center is spacious and offers a fairly complete retail area, instruction and daily trips aboard either the *Double Trouble*, a 36 foot Thompson trawler equipped for diver comfort, or one of the smaller boats in the fleet.

Shallow, medium and deep reef structures may be found off Harbour Island with enough interesting marine life and diversity in coral structure to occupy divers for weeks. **The Plateau**, with its huge high profile coral canyons and tame groupers, **Miller's Reef**, with its three miles of reef paralleling the shoreline; and **The Arch**, an area of dazzling beauty within the Miller's Reef configuration, are a few of my personal favorites.

On Spanish Wells the HARBOUR CLUB and the SPANISH WELLS BEACH RESORT are served by the same dive operation and will generally dive sites along the famous **Devil's Backbone**, the sharp reef structure off the coast of North Eleuthera that initially snared the Eleutherian adventurers' ship. It claimed dozens more over the years, including the barge carrying a steam locomotive—now scattered in 15 feet of water.

Other dive sites of interest will include the **Current Cut**, where divers zoom along on a five to seven knot current created by tidal changes in a narrow gap linking Eleuthera Sound and the open sea; and **The Freighter**, some five miles from Current Cut. Here a 260 foot Lebanese vessel was purposely run aground after catching fire in 1971. Perfectly upright, with the entire superstructure remaining above the waterline and the hull sitting in 25 feet of water, the freighter has attracted huge schools of resident fish and has fascinating macro encrustations along its sides.

ANDROS

Andros is the largest of the Bahamas islands, 104 miles long by 40 miles wide. First discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, Andros was called "La Isla del Espirito Santo," the island of the Holy Spirit. A major part of the spirit of the island these days is diving, for with the deep Tongue of the Ocean offshore and the 140 mile barrier reef running parallel to the shore, the opportunities for underwater exploration are many. There are only two dive operations on the island and they are widely separated in terms of geography. It is unlikely you will ever see another dive boat sharing your reef off Andros. SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE has been in continual operation by Dick and Rosie Birch for more than 28 years. ANDROS UNDERSEA ADVENTURES, the Neal Watson run dive operation at the ANDROS BEACH HOTEL, came later, but has become a very popular destination for traveling divers in just a few years.

The Small Hope Bay Lodge is near the settlement of Fresh Creek on a scenic stretch of beach with stately casuarina pines all about. Guests never number more than 40—the atmosphere is casual and very friendly, the food superior and the volume of repeat business very high. The dive services include custom flattop dive boats and an efficient compressor and gear rental facility conveniently set at the end of a long dock.

Nearly 80 miles to the north, outside of Nicholls Town, sits the Andros Beach Hotel and Villas. The hotel is beautifully landscaped with a lawn (an unusual feature for a Bahamas resort), flowering shrubs, palm trees, a wonderful sand beach and a freshwater swimming pool. There are 15 guest units including 10 double hotel rooms, three cottages and a single two bedroom villa. The dive center is dockside and features the compressors, rental scuba gear and the dedicated dive boats that one would expect from an experienced dive professional such as Neal Watson.

The diving off Andros consists of wrecks, reefs, blue holes and drop-offs. The ***Potomac*** is a shallow water wreck of a pre-World War II cargo ship run aground, then split by the forces of a hurricane. The bow is very shallow and rela-



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tively intact. Surrounding the ship are shallow coral gardens and some elkhorn corals have even grown along the side of the ship. The stern is in deeper water, although it is also partially awash at low tide. Here it is common to see nurse sharks and large schools of grazing parrotfish. In **Coral Caverns**, huge pillar corals rise 20 feet from the seafloor and tunnels and caverns provide refuge for thousands of tiny silversides. **The Barge** is an old navy landing craft sunk in 1963 in 70 feet of water. This is a favorite fish feeding spot for the divemasters from Small Hope Bay and groupers and green morays have enthusiastically responded.

EXUMA

Cast in a nearly straight line, the Exuma chain of 365 islands and cays stretches for 90 miles in a southeasterly direction from Nassau. From the air they provide a kaleidoscopic jumble of blues and greens. From the sea they provide some of the best cruising in the Bahamas. Liveaboard dive boats, especially the *Sea Dragon* out of Nassau, have extensively explored the Exumas and land based dive operations are in George Town on Great Exuma.

The two dive operations in George Town include EXUMA DIVERS—owned and operated by Bahamian Wendel McGregor. Benefiting from his long years of experience in Exuma waters, Exuma Divers offers daily dive charters aboard a 38 foot converted houseboat or a 24 foot outboard powered V-hull. EXUMA AQUATICS operates from a spacious waterfront dive shop directly across the street from the PIECES OF EIGHT HOTEL. With a fleet of boats, including a 34 foot flattop, 30 foot deep-V and 24 foot runabout, the sites offshore are but a short ride away.

Favorite dives easily accessible from Great Exuma include **Angelfish Blue Hole**, with tremendously curious angelfish rimming an oceanic blue hole that starts in 30 feet of water and drops to 90. **Stingray Reef** is a shallow 20 foot shoal that drops to about 50 feet with spur and groove coral formations throughout. It is populated by huge schools of grunts and snappers as well as the namesake southern stingrays. **Black Rocks** is so named for the frequent clusters of black coral in only 90 feet of water. The Cousteaus explored **Mystery Cave** but failed to chart the end of this immense cave system. Orange, gray and white encrusting sponges line the cavern interior and, while the main cavern is only at 75 feet, the system is estimated to drop to 300.

LONG ISLAND

While the island is properly known as Long Island—a 400 square mile spot of tropical beauty some 26 miles to the east of George Town, Exuma—for divers it is best recognized as the home of the world famous STELLA MARIS INN AND ES-

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TATE. As one of the pioneer dive resorts of the Bahamas, Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) is a large development of 3,000 acres stretching from the windward to the leeward shore and encompassing a variety of hotel rooms, apartments, bungalows, townhouses, cottages and villas—all available for short term vacation rental. Other amenities include four swimming pools, two tennis courts, restaurant and lounge, marina and dive center, and the 4,250 by 200 foot paved airstrip with Bahamas Port of Entry that facilitates access to this southern Bahamas paradise.

The owners and staff of divemasters are exceedingly friendly here and most anxious to show off their underwater world. The *Sol Mar III* is the new 65 foot dive yacht used for day dive trips as well as overnight jaunts to neighboring Conception Island and Rum Cay. In addition, there are four other day boats used typically for smaller groups or when greater speed is an important consideration.

Among the most requested dives is **Shark Reef** and it is one I never tire of. Here the rules of diving common sense are breached, for when we drop anchor and see sharks immediately circling the boat, we eagerly dive in to enjoy a controlled encounter with these much maligned denizens of the deep. The divemasters have conditioned these sharks to expect food and they arrive predictably on cue, gobble the offering and politely depart when dinner is over.

Other favorite dives include the wreck of the island freighter ***Comberbach***, sitting upright in 100 feet of water; **Barracuda Heads**, with its resident school of horse-eye jacks; and the **Santa Maria Deep Reef**, which features dramatic cuts through the coral to seaward adorned by black coral, high profile coral heads, colorful gorgonians and frequent sightings of giant jewfish.

RUM CAY

Named for the cargo of an East Indian boat wrecked at sea (its cargo of rum washed ashore), Rum Cay is now best known for the beautiful RUM CAY CLUB dive resort. With its own private airstrip, power generator and water supply, the Rum Cay Club is totally self-sufficient. There are three guesthouses, each of which will accommodate eight people in double rooms, on a scenic bluff overlooking the tranquil Atlantic. Two cottages are also available, allowing a total occupancy of only 14 guests. For such a small resort the amenities are most impressive, with a bar and lounge, restaurant, enlarged deck with hot tub and complete dive center and sophisticated photo lab with an automatic E-6 film processor.

The dive boats are two 34 foot flattops. With more than 30 moored dive sites near the leeward side of the island, conditions are ideal for wonderful U/W access. Because fishfeeding stations have been established by the divemasters on many of the sites, the marine life is approachable and diverse. The walls begin in less than 70 feet of water and descend dramatically and vertically in a riot of color and life. There are even huge pinnacles jutting 40 feet from the sandy depths. Around them swarm schools of horse-eye jacks and, occasionally, a blacktip reef shark.

SAN SALVADOR

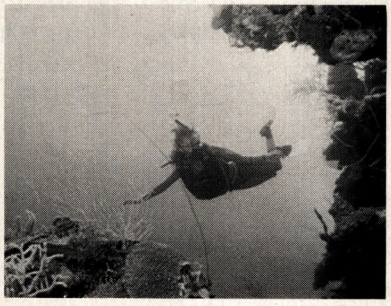
One of the best options for dedicated divers and underwater photographers is the RIDING ROCK INN on the island of San Salvador in the southern Bahamas. With its own airstrip and Bahamas Port of Entry and frequent charter and scheduled air arrivals, more and more divers are discovering this friendly little resort every day. Recent renovations targeted the dive facilities as much as the hotel. Today's Riding Rock features 24 newly decorated double hotel rooms, freshwater swimming pool, restaurant and lounge, conference center and classroom. There is also a state-of-the-art dockside dive center with massive compressors and cascade air system, guest gear storage, darkroom with E-6 film processing and an impressive fleet of modern dive boats. The 47 foot *San Sally* and 30 foot *Island Time* have been custom designed to optimize diver convenience by operations manager Al Zamrok. They are equipped with freshwater camera rinses, walk-through transoms with wide dive platforms and extended ladders, marine electronics and tank racks.

From stateside reservations to hotel staff to dive shop staff, the Riding Rock team is devoted to showing traveling divers the best of their impressive array of nearby reef sites. The day includes a two tank morning dive and single tank afternoon dive, with night dives offered several times weekly. With fascinating dive locations such as the wreck of the steamship **Frascate** in only 18 feet of water; **Snapshot Reef** with its friendly handfed Nassau groupers and spotted moray eels; and shallow vertical walls such as the **Telephone Pole** on the island's leeside, even the most experienced diver will be well entertained. The south side of the island, known as French Bay, is more exposed to the prevailing winds and is consequently more often dived in the summer. When accessible, this area is a magnificent collection of rich walls, abundant pelagic life, magnificent water clarity and incredible color.

CAT ISLAND

As this article was prepared, the newest entry to the Bahamas dive scene was nearing the completion of a thorough renovation program. The CUTLASS BAY CLUB on Cat Island will consist of five beachfront villas (each sleeping as many as four), eight double hotel rooms, full

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dining room and bar, freshwater swimming pool, tennis courts and three custom dive boats that will operate from the dockside dive facility. On a beautiful sandy beach, the Cutlass Bay Club will provide access to one of the least traveled Bahamas islands. From a diver's perspective, this means miles of unexplored reef and the thrill of discovery, with the attendant adventure reassuringly tempered by the comfort of this hedonistic retreat.

LIVE-ABOARD DIVE BOATS

The Bahamas offer a tremendous variety of superior dives and the live-aboard boat is a wonderful way to extend the range of options and maximize the number of dives possible. Your floating hotel will be anchored over the dive site and the unlimited diving programs of these vessels permit as much in-water time as your endurance or computer will allow. An alphabetical listing and short description of the live-aboard dive boats serving the Bahamas follows.

BAHAMAS DIVE BOATS

Blackbeard's Cruises
Sea Explorer, 65'
Morning Star, 65'
Pirate's Lady, 65'
Bruce and Peggy Purdy
P.O. Box 661091
Miami Springs, FL 33266
(800) 327-9600
(305) 888-1226

Sea Fever Diving Cruises
Sea Fever, 90'
Captain Tom Guarino
P.O. Box 39-8276
Miami Beach, FL 33139-0276
(305) 531-DIVE (Florida)
(800) 44-FEVER (toll free)

Bottom Time Adventures
Bottom Time, 65'
Bottom Time II, 80'
Captain A.J. Bland
P.O. Box 11919
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33339-1919
(305) 561-0111

Out Island Oceanic
Sea Dragon, 65'
Captain Dan Doyle
2200 S. Andrews Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
(305) 522-0161

Operated by Bruce and Peggy Purdy, BLACKBEARD'S CRUISES has a fleet of three 65 foot fiberglass sailing sloops (with diesel power when the wind does not cooperate) and is among the most popular live-aboard programs in the Bahamas. The *Morning Star*, *Pirate's Lady* and *Sea Explorer* employ a crew of eight to cater to the needs of an average complement of 22 divers. The cruise is structured as a seven day, six night outing with unlimited diving the primary imperative of most clientele—and on board compressors to facilitate that goal.

BOTTOM TIME ADVENTURES' *Bottom Time II* is a high speed deluxe catamaran that departs Ft. Lauderdale for weekly dive excursions into various parts of the Bahamas. The 86 foot length and 30 foot beam of this vessel provide an exceptionally stable dive platform and the power from her twin 800 horsepower Rolls Royce diesels provides the range.

Owned and operated by Captain A.J. Bland, the *Bottom Time II* is fully air-conditioned, and amenities include two huge sundecks, stereo and video, lavatories and porthole in each cabin, massive aft dive deck and platform and twin 22 cfm compressors. The 65 foot *Bottom Time*, the predecessor to the *Bottom Time II*, is also available for dive charter.

OUT ISLAND OCEANIC'S 65 foot *Sea Dragon* is based in Nassau for live-aboard dive adventures to the Exumas that reportedly fill by word-of-mouth referrals and repeat business. These tours are often booked several years in advance owing to the quality of the diving presented and the amiable crew.

SEA FEVER DIVING CRUISES' 90 foot aluminum *Sea Fever* is owned and operated by Captain Tom Guarino, an experienced veteran of the Bahamas dive charter business. With a thorough knowledge of cruising itineraries that include the Victories and Cat Cay, the Berry Islands, the Joulter Cays and the Cay Sal Banks, Captain Guarino assures his guests superior diving. The vessel has recently been converted to double accommodations in each of the eight staterooms; a new watermaker, E-6 darkroom and video editing facility are among other recent improvements. The *Sea Fever* is fully air-conditioned and carries twin compressors, twin generators and a spacious aft dive deck with broad platform and extended ladders.

CONCLUSION

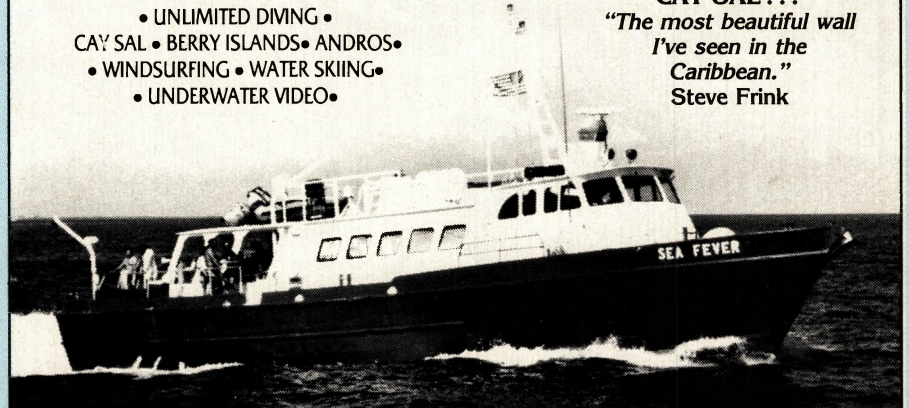
The Bahamas represents an exciting collection of topside and underwater adventures. Years of repeat travel will not exhaust the novelty of this immense collection of shallow reefs, dramatic vertical drop-offs, wrecks and abundant marine life. For further information regarding Bahamas dive packages contact the resorts and dive operators listed in this section or call the Bahamas Office of Sports Information at (800) 32-SPORT. Mail inquiries can be directed to 255 Alhambra Circle, Suite 415, Coral Gables, Florida 33134. Hotel reservations and information are available through the Bahamas Reservation Service at (800) 327-0787.

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CAY SAL • BERRY ISLANDS• ANDROS•
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TRAVEL

SUNSET HOUSE

Cayman's Best Known Dive Resort Expands

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

Sunset House is Grand Cayman's oldest and best known diving resort. Started in 1959 as a ten room guesthouse, it is now approaching its 30th anniversary. During the past three decades, this small seaside hotel has become world famous as a casual and cordial resort for divers.

Also during this period, Sunset House has grown into a modern 42 room vacation resort, complete with a restaurant, seaside bar, boutique and full service dive shop right on the premises. The facilities are well laid out for guests' convenience. It is only a few steps from the rooms to the restaurant, to the dive shop or bar. There are no long walks and no hassle lugging dive gear. The resort's three dive boats pull right up to the hotel pier for quick and easy loading.

Guests simply step aboard the dive boats and spend a few minutes riding to Cayman's top dive sites. Sunset House is the dive resort closest to the *Balboa* wreck, Devil's Grotto, Eden Rock and Eagle Ray Wall. And, Sunset is one of the only resorts that consistently operate dive trips to such spectacular South Side dive sites as: South Wall, The Pinnacle, Palace Wall and Bonnie's Wall.

The resort is right at the water's edge, overlooking one of the calmest and most protected ocean areas of Grand Cayman's West Side. The sea is often glassy calm, with 82°F water and underwater visibility exceeding 100 feet.

Sunset House is one of the few Grand Cayman resorts with a superb living coral reef right in front, allowing it to offer its guests unlimited diving. A few fin strokes from the shore is a 35 foot deep reef loaded with small tropical fish and macro critters. A few more strokes brings guests to a deeper, 60 foot reef that features larger fish, including several pet groupers and a moray eel. Sunset Reef is popular with U/W photographers and a perfect setting for night dives.







Devil's Grotto (above) and other top dive sites are near Sunset House Resort. Above right: Entrance to Sunset House. Right: Guest rooms and bar.

Sunset House has recently expanded its facilities to provide better services for its guests. The Sunsetter Restaurant has been completely revamped and fully air-conditioned. The new food and beverage manager has designed an á la carte menu that offers a wide variety of dinner choices. A fully stocked bar has also been installed in the dining room area.

The ever-popular My Bar has been greatly expanded with the installation of a new, 1,250 square foot patio/deck. Guests can now sit comfortably on the deck and sip their drinks while watching spectacular sunsets. The bar itself has been completely rebuilt and now has its own kitchen. My Bar serves light dinners from 6:00 to 10:00 pm.

Former guests will be pleased to hear that Sunset House now has pure fresh water in all rooms and outside facilities. Grand Cayman Public Works Department has connected the hotel to the island's main water supply.

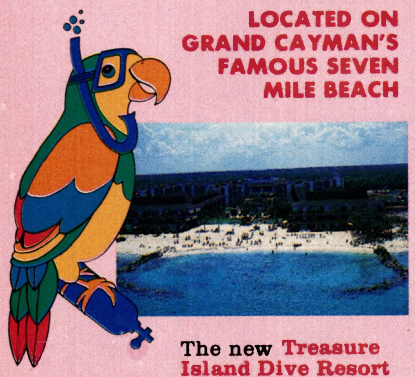
Sunset House has just established a learn to dive program for nondiving friends, spouses and children of dive guests. The resort also offers an open water dive orientation package.

Grand Cayman is 485 miles south of Miami and flight time from that city is approximately one hour and 15 minutes. Cayman Airways operates daily nonstop jet service from Miami to Grand Cayman plus nonstop service from other major U.S. cities such as Houston, Atlanta and Tampa.

For more information about Sunset House Resort and its new dive programs contact Sunset House, P.O. Box 479, Grand Cayman, BWI; (800) 854-4767 or (809) 949-7111.

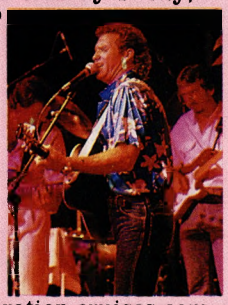
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DIVE RESORT

LOCATED ON GRAND CAYMAN'S FAMOUS SEVEN MILE BEACH



The new **Treasure Island Dive Resort** brings comfort, economy, and diver convenience to an island already world famous for magnificient diving. A complete underwater photo center, dockside dive shop, and a staff of experienced Cayman dive professionals provide maximum diver service. Our resort features deluxe air-conditioned rooms with color satellite TV, Grand Cayman's finest nightclub *"Silver's"*, two fresh-water pools, superior dining at *L'Escargot* and the Island's most complete watersports along our beautiful sand beach. Plus, you might see some of our celebrity owners such as Conway Twitty, Ronnie Milsap or Larry Gatlin during your stay at Treasure Island.





DIVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS our fleet of 45-ft. dive boats. Our **New 65-ft. LIVE ABOARD DIVING YACHT** offers short duration cruises combined with stays at the resort. We definitely offer more flexible itineraries!



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1-800-367-4707
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Best Western WORLDWIDE LODGING

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DOWN UNDER

(Continued from Page 84)

It's a great subject for U/W photography.

Because Bougainville Reef lies in the Coral Sea, it is little visited. Only a few of Australia's live-aboards are licensed to operate beyond the Great Barrier Reef. As a result, Bougainville remains fairly untouched. One of the dive boats capable of visiting Bougainville is the 79 foot *Coralita*, Australia's best known live-aboard. Based in Cairns, this vessel is powered by twin Caterpillar diesels and has a 2,000 mile cruising range. Skippered by owner Alby Ziebel, the *Coralita* has all modern navigational instruments.

The vessel can carry as many as 12 divers and her sleeping accommodations include two large double cabins and four twin-share cabins—all air-conditioned. The *Coralita* has its own fresh watermaker, twin air compressors and a large stern diving platform.

Another well known Australian dive boat that calls on Bougainville is the 65 foot *Reef Explorer*, also based at Cairns. She is powered by twin Gardener diesels and has a cruising range of 3,000 miles. The *Reef Explorer* can carry as many as 12 divers and has a crew of four. The vessel has six double cabins, two shower/heads and a main salon. All are air-conditioned. Diving facilities include twin air compressors, a full width dive platform and sidescan sonar for locating wrecks and pinnacles.

For more information about dive trips scheduled for Bougainville Reef, the Ribbons Reefs and the Cod Hole, contact Dive In Australia, 50 Francisco Street, Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94133; telephone (415) 421-5588.

TREASURE ISLAND DIVERS

Treasure Island Divers, Inc. has been awarded the PADI Five Star Training Facility rating. It offers full service, gulf dive trips and PADI instruction in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area. It has a full line of accessories and scuba gear available.

There are day and night classes for PADI open water certification and eight specialty courses. Owners/instructors Ron and Libby Burch also teach the new PADI medic first aid course.

For more information call (813) 360-6669 or stop by the store at 117 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706.

ISLA MIA OFFICE

The M/V *Isla Mia* of Belize has now opened a stateside office. Mike Tromm will manage the new office. He has 16 years of scuba experience and 25 years of maritime experience.

For more information contact Isla Mia Ltd., Rt. 3, Box 214A, Corpus Christi, TX 78415; (800) 255-8503.

FANTASIA DIVERS

FANTASEA EXCURSIONS

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You never know who you'll bump into in Loreto.



It might be a sea lion. Maybe a finback whale. Or one of over 800 different species of fish that call the Sea of Cortez home.

In Loreto, on Mexico's spectacular Baja coast, you'll find an abundance of sea life few places on earth can match. Everything from the largest sea mammals to dazzling schools of rare tropical fish.

Loreto has something for every diver. Isolated coral coves. Pinnacle rocks and submarine peaks. Sheer walls that plunge to depths of over 100 feet.

Loreto offers complete diving services and facilities. Dive shops, rental equipment, airfills, PADI certification courses and dive tours with experienced guides.

Even on dry land, Loreto has plenty to offer. Like a range of fine hotels. A world-class tennis center. And Spanish missions to explore.

In Mexico, they say everything's bigger in the Baja. When you dive in Loreto, you'll know what they mean.

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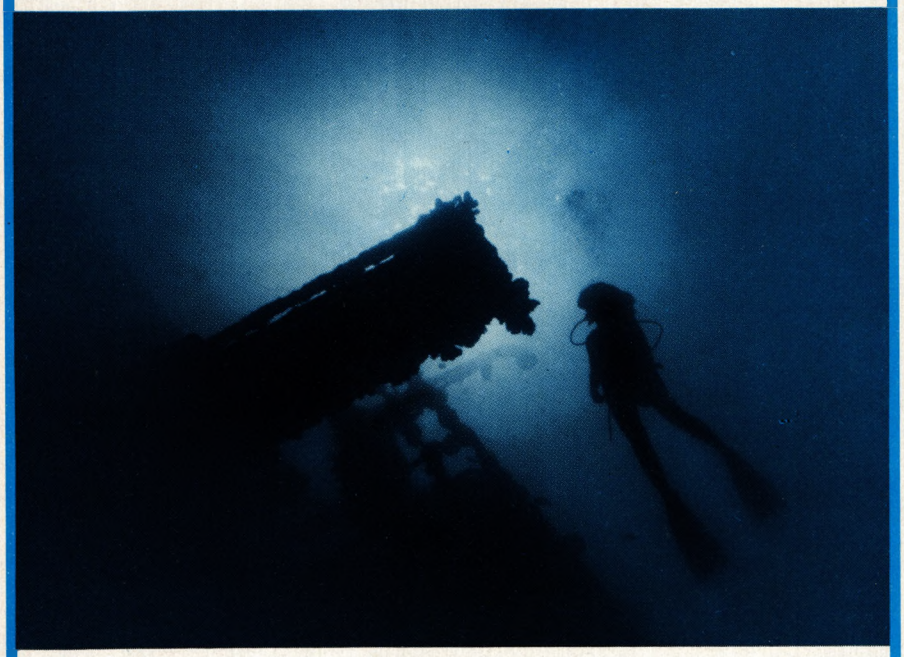
LORETO
WHERE EVEN THE MOUNTAINS SWIM.

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Scuba in Aruba

Now offering a large choice of dive sites, an abundance of wrecks (including the largest in the Caribbean), virgin reefs and drop-offs—and the best in vacation excitement.



Dive packages include 7 nights/8 days hotel accommodations, bonus features, round-trip airport/hotel transfers and unlimited diving. Also available 5 nights/6 days and 3 nights/4 days. For information, bookings and air transportation contact:

1-800-327-6709.

Eastern Airlines and American Airlines have daily flights to Aruba from major U.S. cities at reduced rates.

*Prices quoted are starting prices and vary by season. Full cooperation with travel agents and dive professionals.

PELICAN WATERSPORTS
PADI International Training Facility. Operates three modern dive centers with new dive boats and top-quality rental/retail equipment. Night dives, two-tank dives, wreck dives, shore dives, etc.
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7 nights/8 days from $575 per person, double occupancy*

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Aruba Tourism Authority

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Phone: (212) 246-3030 (New York State) 1-800-TO-ARUBA
Telex: 668688 ARUBA NY

Aruba. One happy island. Come.

SOTO'S SCHEDULE EXPANDS

There has been an increasing demand for dives at Stingray City, featured in September's SKIN DIVER. So, Bob Soto's Diving, Ltd. is expanding its dive schedule to include this unique 12 foot dive site. To enhance this expansion, the *Paradise Diver* has been renovated to provide more convenient tank storage and room for divers. Since *Paradise Diver* is in Governor's Harbour, it is only a short trip to Stingray City.

Divers are able to dive with the rays on the second dive site, immediately following one of the many spectacular North Wall dives such as Tarpon Alley, Snobs Knob and Eagle Ray Drop-Off. In the afternoon, there will be a one tank dive to Stingray City, also departing from Governor's Harbour. Guy Pelland of Ocean Images is available to do video and photo shoots of either of these dives.

Reserve your space now by calling the Soto's reservations hotline (800) BOB-SOTO (262-7686) or, in Florida, (305) 981-7555.

DEL MAR AQUATICS

Del Mar Aquatics, the dive store at Casa del Mar in Cozumel, has added two more "splash boats," which brings the total to four. The four splash boats are the fastest on the island for their size and offer the diver more time on the reef and less time getting to it. Powered by twin 225 horsepower V6 Johnson outboards, the boats are capable of speeds of nearly 50 miles per hour with a full load.

All four splash boats are custom fiberglass, 33 foot, 20 passenger vessels with ample underseat storage, freshwater rinses and tables for cameras and personal belongings.

For more information about Del Mar Aquatics contact Two Worlds Travel, 1307 First St., Humble, TX 77338; (800) 446-2166 or, in Texas, (713) 446-2166.

SUN SCUBA & SKI

Sun Sports Scuba & Ski has opened a new dive and ski store in North Palm Beach, Florida. Sun Sports is not only the largest store in Palm Beach, it is the only one with a heated indoor pool designed especially for scuba training. Also, dive charters are available on the 38 foot boat, *Experience*.

Sun Sports' parent store is Sea Sports Diving Center in Key West, Florida. The owner, David Fair, is anticipating opening a second Key West location by summer.

For more information contact: Sun Scuba & Ski, Inc., 11915 U.S. 1, North Palm Beach, FL 33408; (305) 622-7606.

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JAMAICA



OUR BEAUTY RUNS DEEP

Our beauty runs from our lush green mountains, down refreshingly inviting waterfalls, to gorgeous beaches. But it doesn't stop there. Divers are invited to explore further... our seascapes have been described as "miniature versions of the Grand Canyon" with an unmatched variety of colorful sponges and tropical marine life.

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SUNDIVERS JAMAICA — Club Caribbean
800-223-6510 In NY 212-832-2277

FANTASEA DIVERS — SEAPALMS
1-800-445-2690 • in N.Y. 212-953-7910

BLUE WHALE DIVERS LIMITED — NEGRIL TREE HOUSE CLUB
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The above are all members of the Jamaica Association of Dive Operators

Come experience the deeper side of Jamaica's beauty... a beauty only a diver can fully appreciate.

For more information contact:
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Australia The

MIKE BALL DIVE EXPEDITIONS



Mike Ball Watersports. Australia's most successful dive operation, provides outstanding dives from Watersport and Supersport. Excellent service and superior dive facilities are provided from these spacious specialist dive vessels. Unlimited dives to the Barrier Reef, Yongala Wreck and Coral Sea can include exciting shark action, wreck diving with spectacular marine life and deep wall diving.

Rates - Watersport 4 days **$558.** 7 days **$977.** 10 days **$1400**
Supersport 4 days **$669.** 6 days **$1003.** 8 days **$1338**
(All prices USD)

Sea Safaris: 1-800-821-6670 (outside CA)
1-800-262-6670 (in CA)

See & Sea: 1-800-DIV-XPRT

Tropical Adventures: (in Washington state)
1-800-247-3483 206-441-3483

"CORALITA"



The 79 foot Coralita caters for a maximum 12 divers in 6 air conditioned cabins, offers excellent service, quality meals and need we say it?—unlimited diving.

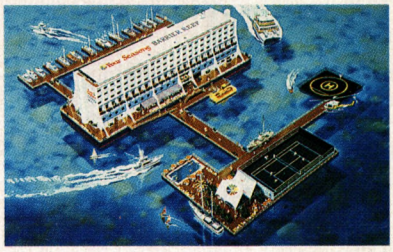
Explore the Great Barrier Reef—Cod Hole, Pixie Pinnacle, Dynamite Pass and Ribbon Reefs. These four day special excursions **$540.00.(USD)**

For the ultimate diving in 200 foot plus visibility, join us for a northern or southern Coral Sea extravaganza! Sites include: Wreck of the Yongala, Marion, Lihou, Bouganville and Osprey Reefs. These 10 day Coral Sea extravaganzas **$2,650.00** (USD)

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Group charters also available
See Undercurrent Report '84 Vol. 9 No. 4

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THE WORLD'S FIRST FLOATING HOTEL

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- Complete Dive facility including retail and rental shop, resort and full scuba instruction, day dive boats.
- 200 room international hotel, conference and convention facilities, choice of restaurants, ranging from coffee shop/grill to elegant first class international cuisine.
- Comprehensive resort and leisure opportunities for non-divers including unique floating tennis court, fully enclosed swimming pool, luxury day sailing excursions, wind surfing, catamarans, disco, nightclub, sauna and gymnasiam.
- Prices: **4 nights, 3 days, 2 dives per day including a dive on the Yongola, weather permitting**

$785.00 (USD) per person, based on dbl. occupancy

1-800-DIV XPRT

REEF EXPLORER



New Guinea—Over the last 3 years, the Reef Explorer has discovered some of the most exotic diving in northeastern New Guinea around the island of New Britain-Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul. Chris Newbert described a recent trip as "simply awesome, best diving I have ever done".

Coral Sea—Aboard Australia's pioneer dive boat, high season, in the Coral Sea is a must. 200 foot plus visibility, giant soft corals, intense and beautiful fish life. Southern Coral Sea trips can start or finish with a few days at Hayman Island. Northern Coral Sea trips from Cairns.

Limited vacancies for
New Guinea and Coral Sea
during 1988

1-800-DIV XPRT

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Wonder Down Under.









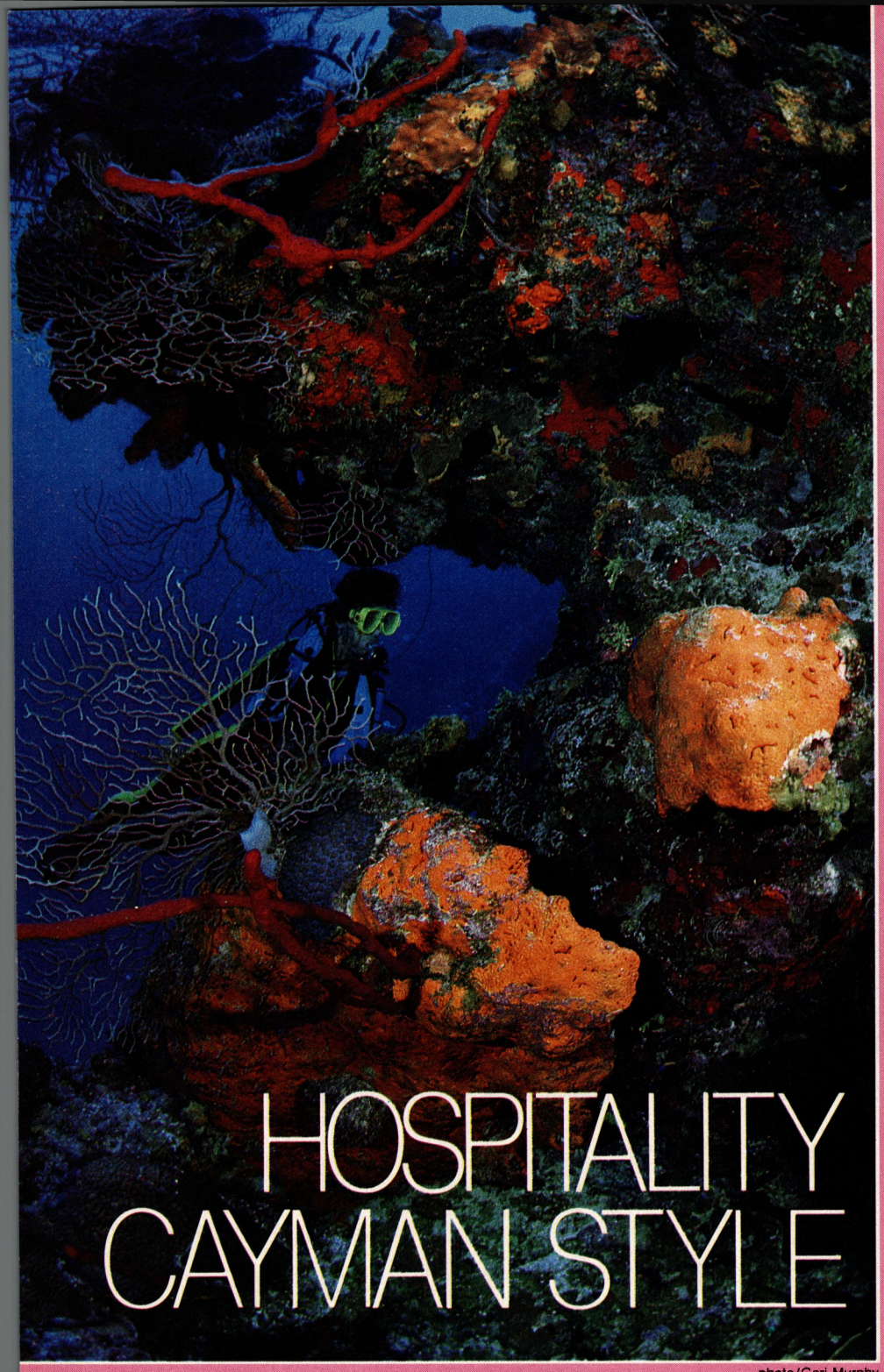
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DIVE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF FROM THE HEIGHT OF LUXURY.

Hayman. Australia's new world-class resort hotel, perfectly situated on its own tropical island close to The Great Barrier Reef. Hayman is an elegant, civilised haven of peace and good living. It offers exquisite food and wine, impeccable service and unrivalled diving facilities. Including Australia's only PADI Five Star and the world's most sophisticated and luxurious dive boat, The Reef Goddess. She will take you to one of the most exhilarating diving adventures of your life. For reservations or information telephone: Ansett Airlines of Australia: within CA (800) 626 7388; outside CA (800) 426 7388. Or Sea & See Travel: within CA (415) 434 3400. Nationwide outside CA (800) 348 9778.

H A Y M A N

WORLDS APART



HOSPITALITY CAYMAN STYLE

photo/Geri Murphy



photo/Paul Humann

Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman offers a fleet of six state-of-the-sport dive boats that carry divers quickly and comfortably to the best of Cayman dive sites. Foster's has a large staff of divemasters and instructors and six retail shops.

Don Foster's Condo-Dive Alliance

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY G.H. NOWAK

I'll never forget my first meeting with Don. I was on a bar stool strumming an island ditty in a run-down seaside bar. My pay was free conch fritters and cold beer. In walked big, chunky, smiling Don who said "Hey, can I join ya? I got an old set of drums in my truck."

"Why not—but I'm not sharing my conch fritters!" was my reply. An instant later the sound of my band became fuller with the addition of an authentic calypso beat banged out by Don Foster.

As I progressed to nightly smoke filled clubs, recording sessions and money, Don was always there with me. Not only did he become an important member of my band, he also became a good friend.

Don, however, rarely talked about music. He always spoke of the sea, the coral gardens and the marine life in Cayman's crystalline waters. I figured it was just the Caymanian in him, so I paid little attention. Caymanians are some of the world's best mariners and Don's father and uncle are reputable sea captains.

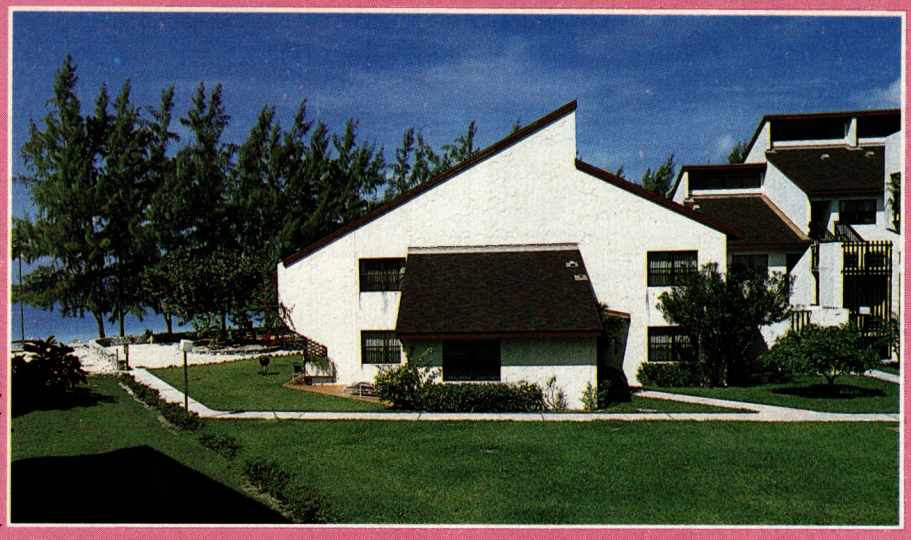
One day (nine years later), Don caught me completely off guard when he said, "You know, Barefoot, I think I'm going to start my own dive business."

"Dive business!! Don, you're nuts!! Dive operators in these islands are as numerous as taxi drivers. Forget it, you'll never make it," was my reply.

Don knew the reefs, the walls and undersea caverns of Cayman better than most. He had that to his advantage, but I just couldn't see Don as a business person. He was too happy-go-lucky, too laid back, too much "tropics on the brain." And besides that, I was afraid of losing a good drummer. Well folks, as the old cliche goes, the rest is history: Don meets Jil, they fall in love and I lose a drummer.

Jil is the Margaret Thatcher of Cayman's dive industry. On this tiny British Crown Colony, when you spell Jil Foster, you spell s-u-c-c-e-s-s! In less than a decade, she turned what started out as a one boat, one drummer, ten tank dive undertaking into one of Cayman's leading dive operations. She now heads a staff of 45 (24 of whom are divemasters and instructors). There are six retail shops and a fleet of six state-of-the-sport dive boats.

The success, however, hasn't changed Don much; he's still probably the most



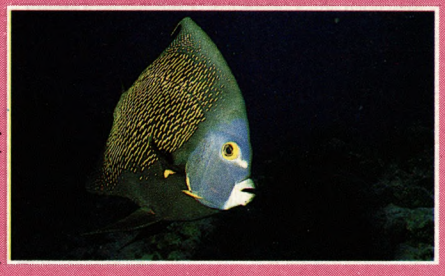
photo/Geri Murphy



photo/G.H. Nowak



photo/G.H. Nowak



photo/Geri Murphy

Top: Hospitality World has more than 500 rental units on Grand Cayman and can arrange accommodations in anything from a penthouse-style three bedroom condo to a one bedroom villa. Above: Don, Jil, Kirk, Brandon Foster. Above right: Marc Redt.

complaisant dive boss you'll ever meet. His relaxed island attitude rubs off on his staff members. They have a reputation of providing service with a personal touch, yet ensuring at all times that safety goes hand in hand with fun.

There's no need for Don to change. Jil runs the show. Her energy accelerates every time she gets her pretty little hands on a new venture. Jil's reputation and success was not built on diving alone. There are boutiques, a photo lab, the Kon-Tiki Party Raft, Don's 38 foot cruise trawler and, if you want deepsea fishing, that's also available.

One would think when meeting a lady of such status in the dive industry that the mood would be cold and the talk would be canny. Not so, my friends. When you meet Jil there's an immediate attraction to her smile and warm sense of modesty. Along with the normal accumulation of messages, pens and paper that one finds on any busy executive's desk, there are also pictures of her two sons; Kirk, age seven, and Brandon, age two. There's also a homemade Valentine card with a child's scribbling, "We Love You, Mommy" and a collection of invitations to cocktail parties she tries to attend between shifting from wife to mother to business woman.

Like a well blended island concoction, the Fosters have found the right mixture in creating the most talked about dive operation in these islands: personal attention, hassle-free diving and high safety standards topped off by an affiliation with Hospitality World, Cayman's biggest and best selection of accommodations.

Marc Redt, president of Hospitality World, is another friend I have had the pleasure of working with in the past. As general manager of Grand Cayman's Holiday Inn, he was also my boss. Marc looks more like a linebacker for the Miami Dolphins than the director of an enterprise he started that today is the most successful condominium management company in the Caribbean.

Hospitality World has more than 500 rental units in Grand Cayman. They can arrange accommodations in anything from a penthouse-style three bedroom condo—complete with spa and maid—to simple yet comfortable one bedroom villas along the fabulous Seven Mile Beach. During your stay with Hospitality World, Don Foster's Diving Services provide complimentary transportation from most condos to their dive boats.

Now, don't let the word condominium scare you. Most prices at Hospitality World are equal or close to hotel rates—and look at the advantages. A two bedroom unit can comfortably hold a party of four to six. There's a kitchen, a refrigerator, A/C, electricity and maid service. In most cases, you're within walking distance of local restaurants, gift shops, well stocked markets and the Wreck of the Ten Sails Lounge where you can dance to the music of the Barefoot Man and Band. (I had to get a plug in somewhere!)

Hotel managers in these islands can come and go like the trade winds. Marc Redt, however, has been one of the rare ones who has firmly rooted himself in the tropics like a palm tree. With years of hotel experience under his belt, including six terms as president of the Cayman Island Hotel Association, Marc, along with Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd., has created a sort of villa-dive-vacation-package. Like Jil and Don, much of Marc's success has resulted from providing a personalized touch. You can find this dynamic entrepreneur working side by side with divemasters at a DEMA Show or giving a first hand tour of his properties to visiting travel agents.

The hallways of the George Town Trust Building, where Jil and Marc have their offices, have become corridors of power in the hospitality industry. With Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman on one side and Hospitality World on the other, they focus on their clients' comfort and needs and provide a choice of affordable, complete condo-dive packages.

I'm not going to describe the fabulous diving around Grand Cayman, that would be a bit repetitious. I'm sure anyone holding this magazine in his or her hands has read it all before. Cayman is the Super Bowl of scuba and we all know it. Thus, I will sum up this story by admitting: The Barefoot Band did lose the best drummer it ever had, but our loss was Jil's and Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd.'s gain. And, Jil and Don Foster have gained by their alliance with Marc Redt's Hospitality World Ltd.

Actually, I should mention that the alliance is a three way partnership that includes the convenience and expertise of dive travel, through Scuba Tours, Inc. This well established and respected travel agent/wholesaler serves individuals, dive shops, groups and other travel agencies throughout the world. For information and reservations, call the toll free Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman hot line (800) 635-2822. In New Jersey call (201) 256-9115.

TRIMARINE

(800)648-3393

Stop the press!!
Our new boat has been launched and will enter service soon. See Dec. SKIN DIVER for details of our "Name the Boat" contest. Last Chance!

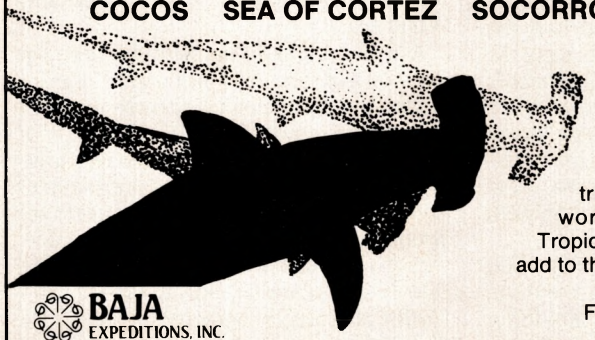
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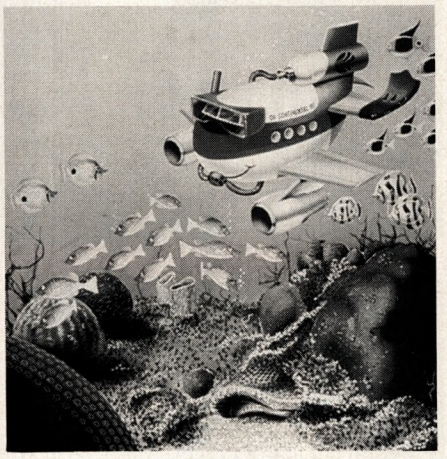
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CONTINENTAL/COZUMEL

Continental Airlines flies from Houston to Cozumel every day. The flight departs Houston at 11:20 am and arrives at 1:20 pm. This allows divers to connect from almost anywhere in the United States.



Continental flights depart Cozumel at 2:00 pm every day, arriving in Houston at 4:08 pm. For more information call your travel agent or Continental Airlines (800) 525-0280.

SAND DOLLAR PHOTO BOAT

Sand Dollar Dive and Photo on Bonaire has added a boat to its fleet. The boat will be used exclusively for photographers who want to avoid crowded reefs, unsettled bottoms and other disturbances. With divemaster and photographer Sonny Kempenaar, the boat is equipped with a "photographer's first aid kit" and a dive guide specializing in finding creatures.

Sand Dollar Dive and Photo is equipped with a full service photo facility including courses, camera rental and repair and video. Also, E-6 and print processing are available. For more information contact The Travel Barn, 50 Georgetown Road, Bordentown NJ 08505; (800) 345-0805.

OCEAN DIVERS WRECK PACKAGES

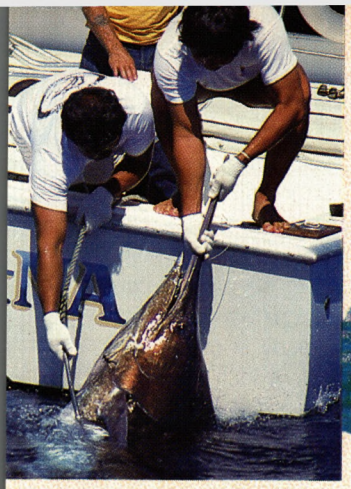
With the sinking of the two Coast Guard cutters, *Bibb* and *Duane*, comes a new concept in wreck diving. Ocean Divers, along with Marina del Mar, is offering wreck, deep and dive computer specialties along with dive and hotel packages.

The dive computer specialty gives the advanced diver a chance to become educated in and familiar with using a computer on the 110 foot wreck dives.

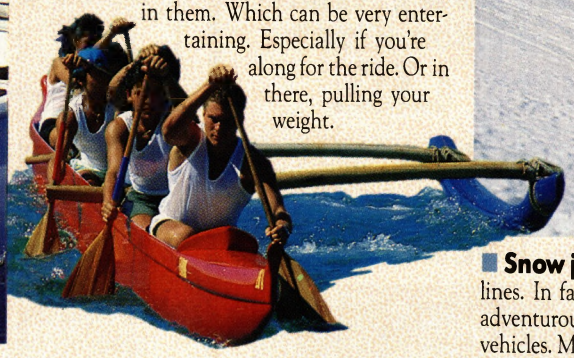
Packages and instruction are offered year-round at Ocean Divers, a Five Star PADI facility. For more information call toll free (800) 451-1113 or, in Florida, (305) 451-1113.

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HOW TO AVOID A RELAXING VACATION.



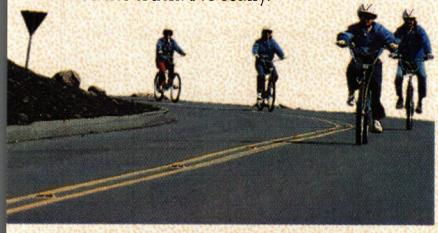
Row, row, row your boat The ancient Hawaiians navigated the seas in outrigger canoes. Today, local folks are more likely to race in them. Which can be very entertaining. Especially if you're along for the ride. Or in there, pulling your weight.



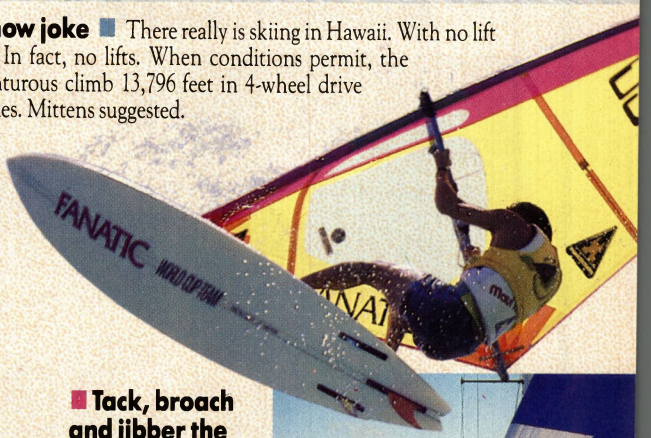


Snow joke There really is skiing in Hawaii. With no lift lines. In fact, no lifts. When conditions permit, the adventurous climb 13,796 feet in 4-wheel drive vehicles. Mittens suggested.

A 2,000 pound marlin? Off the Big Island, some people have been known to tell some pretty fishy fish stories. But you *can* catch a 60-pound tuna or a 30-pound mahimahi. And that's the truth. No really.



It's all downhill from here Rent a bicycle atop Maui's Mt. Haleakala, and coast down breathtaking trails for hours on end. Not to worry. You don't have to ride back up.



Tack, broach and jibber the kibber Before "Stars and Stripes" brought back the America's Cup, the crew trained in our waters. Some say the sailing here is the best in the world. The windsurfing, too. But take a lesson first. Or you might end up in Australia.







Do a little social climbing Most people are content to gaze at Diamond Head's familiar profile from sea level. But a half-hour hike can take you to see level. Isn't that Kansas over there?



Different strokes for different folks With 936 holes of golf and over 400 tennis courts, it's easy to get into the swing of things here. And where else can you hit a wedge by a waterfall, or volley near a volcano?

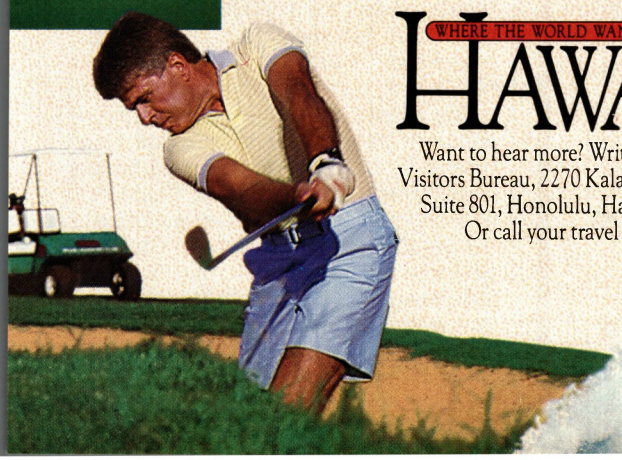


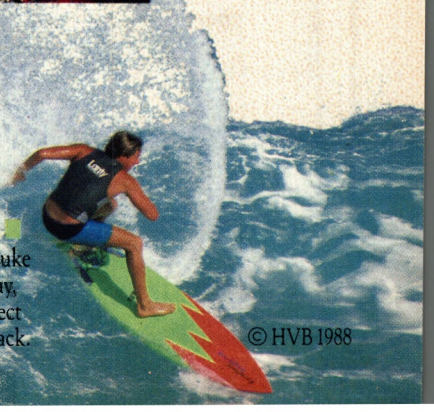
Water, water everywhere If you get tired of swimming or boating or skiing or surfing in the ocean, try exploring its depths. Our clear, warm waters are perfect for scuba or snorkeling. The fish like it, too.

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Enjoy the sport of kings and Duke Hawaii's early royalty invented surfing. Later, Duke Kahanamoku helped advance the sport. Today, beginners and experts alike tackle Hawaii's perfect waves. Of course, sometimes the waves tackle back.

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"The Inn On The Beach" and *Ron Kipp's*

Bob Soto's Diving LTD.

Northwest Airlines

Proudly announce the Sixth Annual Guaranteed Dive Vacation



AGAIN . . . NO SURPRISES AND NO EXCUSES.

The Hotel—Our International Beach Resort is located right on the beach in the heart and best part of beautiful 7 Mile Beach. Spacious, well appointed rooms, freshwater pool and beach bar. Excellent food and the home of the Cayman's best evening entertainment, the legendary Barefoot Man, the "Scuba Balladeer."

The Diving—Bob Soto's Ltd., the island's only PADI 5 Star diving facility, presents the most comfortable, spacious boats on Grand Cayman. Our drop-front boats pick you up right at the Holiday Inn beach—5-15 minutes to Cayman's best dive sites.

Additional Dives—Upgrade available for North Wall or Double Wall Dives at minimal additional charge. Underwater slide show every week. Maximum divers per boat 20 people. Room upgrade at additional cost, based on availability at time of arrival. Northwest Airlines—official airline for guaranteed dive package.

Dive Packages Includes—5 nite accommodations (economy category) at the Holiday Inn Grand Cayman—full American breakfast daily—four morning two tank dives.

Package Also Includes—Unlimited shore diving • tanks/backpack/weight belt/surface buoy/for shore dives • Free Bob Soto's Diving T-shirt • Tuesday Manager's Rum Punch Party • Free admission to the Wreck of the Ten Sails nightclub • All the amenities of the Holiday Inn Grand Cayman. Free admission to Cayman Maritime and Treasure Museum. *Air fare is not included.*

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Three night package **$245.00** per pers. dbl. occ.

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**Prices do not include 10% service charge and 6% government tax which will be quoted at the time of booking.*

Your dive boat will operate every day—GUARANTEED
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See your Professional Travel Agent, Dive Shop or write U.S. Reservations Office, The Holiday Inn Grand Cayman, 5100 Poplar Avenue, Suite 2219, Memphis, Tennessee 38137.

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THE HISTORIAN

SDM LOOKS BACK WITH E.R. CROSS

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: MARCH 1953

Several dive clubs were featured in that early issue of SKIN DIVER: the Sea Devils of Torrance, California; the Sharks, Redondo Beach (Mel Fisher, president); the Dolphins, Redondo Beach; the Hell Divers of Norwalk; the West Los Angeles Neptunes; the Coronado Wetbacks; the Puget Sound Mudsharks; the Reef Rogues and the California Water Dogs. Are any of those early clubs still in existence? Let me know.

Two pages reviewed Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau's book *The Silent World*;



Ron Church

it introduced us to phrases such as "rapture of the deep" and to the dubious honor bestowed on divers who made "record dives." One of the book's divers died while attempting a dive to 396 feet. Richard Crosby wrote the review.

The other feature story of that issue was Skin Diving on a Polynesian Expedition by Robert R. Harry, assistant curator of fishes, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. They sailed on George Vanderbilt's 172 foot auxiliary schooner *Pioneer*. It was reported, "During our recent cruise extensive underwater spearfishing operations contributed greatly to the 50,000 fish specimens collected and preserved." I wonder: What did those 50,000 fish contribute to science?

The Sharks dive club held its second annual lobster dinner at the Hollywood Riveria Club. The price was $1.50 per plate!! The Council of Diving Clubs held its monthly meeting and elected officers: Bill Barada, president; Big Jim Christiansen, vice president; Dottie Davies, secretary/treasurer. The photography directors were Dr. Nelson Mathison and Mel Fisher. With a slate like that the council was bound to succeed.

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FIFTEEN YEARS AGO: MARCH 1973

Two items in that issue were similar to events reported in the March 1953 issue. Publisher Paul Tzimoulis commented on the tragic death of Hewart Henriques of Jamaica. "He was attempting a world record scuba dive to a depth of 500 feet on compressed air. On the day before Christmas, Hewart and one safety diver set off from the stone pier in front of the hotel on a swim that turned out to be a one way ticket to the world beyond. To make things doubly sad the safety diver—Sister Stella Rose—also died in the attempt." SKIN DIVER has always opposed record setting dives. They are dangerous. Seldom are the divers involved qualified, equipped or adequately supported.

Ron Church wrote about Captain Cousteau's photography adventures while filming *The World of the Walrus* in Alaska. Hillary Hauser featured the great barracuda in her popular Fish of the Month article. Technifacts featured the early wrecks of the Pacific coast and warned about diving after a bout with pneumonia.

In March 1953, I opened the doors to Divers Supply Company in Wilmington, California. On March 9, 1968, I made an underwater inspection of Chevron's submarine pipelines in Hawaii. What were you doing in those years? Share your experiences with The Historian, c/o SKIN DIVER Magazine, 8490 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90069.

TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 51)

college graduates. They will continue to be sought after by employers. However, a one year course should prove popular with students who cannot devote two years to training. For complete information on all courses, including the one year course, contact Highline Community College, Diving Technician Program, P.O. Box 98000, Des Moines, WA 98198.

Next month Technifacts will discuss sources for several types of equipment for advanced diving skills. Also, more questions will be answered. If you have comments, suggestions or questions about modern diving techniques or equipment write to Technifacts, C/O SKIN DIVER Magazine, 8490 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Be with us again next month.

FLORIDA TREASURE!
Discover gold from ancient Spanish shipwrecks off of Florida's southeast coast in the April issue of
skin diver



Photo: Mike Meagleski

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***BILL GLEASON** — Editor/Publisher of Skin Diver will teach an u/w Photo Seminar.
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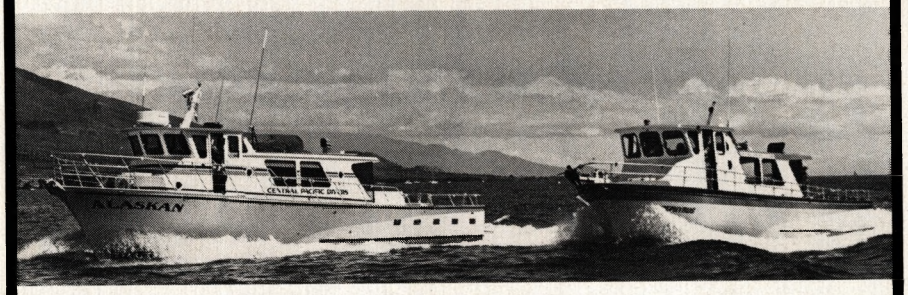
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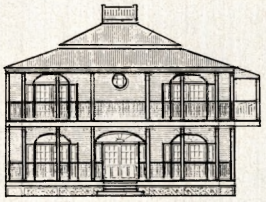
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This unique package combines the 15 years experience and 43' and 50' luxury dive boats of Central Pacific Divers with the Plantation Inn, our brand new, personal, first class inn featuring turn of the century furnishings, central air, 12' deep tile pool & spa, and the award winning cuisine of Gerard's Restaurant. All this located in the historic, beautiful town of Lahaina, walking distance to the boats. Our deluxe dive week—7 boat dives, elegant accommodations, air-conditioned car, gourmet meals, champagne—$680 per person.

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Dives or classes 1-800-551-6767 toll free
Or contact Central Pacific Divers 808-661-8717
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When on Maui, come by to view our rooms or try a dive or a meal. Free intro dives in our pool through complete diver training in our PADI 5 Star facility.

Next time you feed your face, think about your heart.

Go easy on your heart and start cutting back on foods that are high in saturated fat and cholesterol. The change'll do you good.



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WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

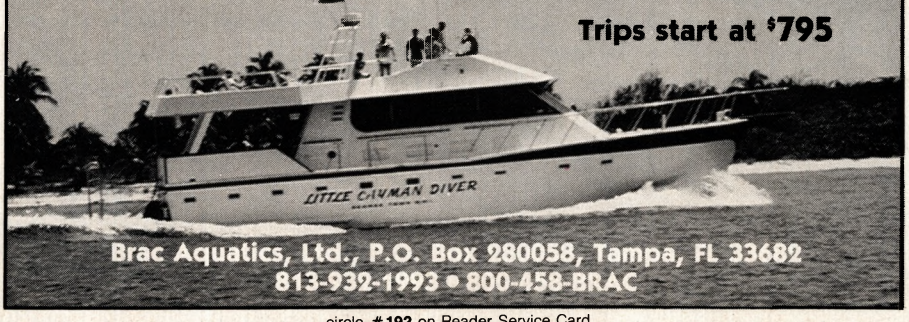
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PHOTO BONAIRE BROCHURE

Divi Resorts' new brochure, entitled *Photo Bonaire—Something Special in Underwater Photography*, is now being distributed by Divi's sales representatives at travel agencies and travel industry trade shows, and by Nikon, Inc. to purchasers of Nikonos cameras.

Photo Bonaire, which operates in conjunction with Peter Hughes Dive Bonaire and Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Casino on the island of Bonaire, is a full service underwater photo facility. Certified scuba divers enroll in a one or two day underwater photography course, a three day PADI and NAUI photo certification course or an underwater video course. Those with special needs can take individualized instruction in virtually any aspect of underwater photography. All courses include classroom instruction, at least one photo instructional dive, critiques and use of equipment.

In addition, several week long Nikonos technique seminars are offered throughout the year. Well known underwater photo professionals with varied backgrounds and experience are brought in to lead these seminars. Participants learn theory and technique, including characteristics of various films and lenses, use of artificial light, macro photography, composition and more. The individual seminars are as varied as the instructors themselves—a list that includes such notables as Rick Frehsee, David Doubilet and Marty Snyderman.

The colorful brochure also describes ancillary services offered at Photo Bonaire. These include equipment rentals, slide shows, custom E-6 and Cibachrome processing and a photo charge station. The Photo Bonaire photo pros will even film a custom underwater video for individuals or groups, or conduct an artistic still photo shoot to diver specifications.

Those who need additional copies or more information, or would like to make reservations can call (607) 277-3484 or toll free (800) 367-3484 in the U.S. and Canada.

TRUK LAGOON COURSES

Micronesia Aquatics is now offering internationally approved specialty courses. Divers visiting Truk Lagoon can now take NAUI and PADI approved courses. For the first time, divers can dive the world's most famous sunken ships and receive the distinctive specialty course Truk Lagoon Wreck Diver. This prestigious specialty course and others are available nowhere else in the world and taught only by Micronesia Aquatics.

For information contact Micronesia Aquatics, Inc., P.O. Box 57, Truk Lagoon, E.C.I. 96942.

DON FOSTER'S Dive
Grand Cayman Ltd.

"Don Foster's Name Is To Diving What Harvard's Name Is To Universities"

Paul Tzimoulis
Skin Diver Magazine

Four different accommodation choices mean that your 'surface intervals' will be as enjoyable as your 'bottom time'.



The Royal Palms Hotel

Centrally located on Seven Mile Beach and just ten minutes from George Town, the Royal Palms is headquarters for Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman and Ocean Photo Centre. A fresh water pool, lighted tennis courts, restaurant and oceanside pool bar are some of the amenities which make this charming hotel the divers choice.



Hospitality World Villas

If you prefer the flexibility of a villa vacation, Don Foster's offers a choice of eight condominium complexes affiliated with Cayman's largest condo management company, Hospitality World. Each luxury apartment has a self contained kitchen; all bedrooms have accompanying baths. All villas are directly on Seven Mile Beach or have beach access and Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman provides complimentary beach or vehicle pick up from most of these properties.



The Grand Pavilion Hotel

Elegance is the keynote at this impressive new hotel, Queen Elizabeth's home during her recent visit to Grand Cayman. The Grand Pavilion hotel, with access to Seven Mile Beach, offers luxury accommodations, a lushly landscaped outdoor pool and complimentary Terrace Bar with a waterfall garden bordered by a chic boutique providing everything from suntan lotion to the latest in tropical fashions. One of the Island's finest seafood restaurants, Le Diplomat, serves excellent cuisine in a casual atmosphere.

For further information contact:

Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman
P.O. Box 151
Grand Cayman, B.W.I.
809-949-7025

U.S. Representatives:
Scuba Tours, Inc.
Toll Free 800-635-2822
or 201-256-9115 in New Jersey

photography by Paul Humann and Bradley Graham

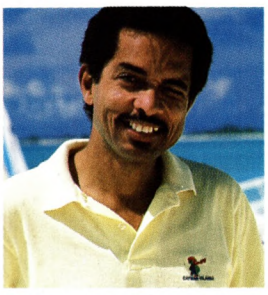
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DIVI BARBADOS

AN EASTERN CARIBBEAN TOURIST RETREAT NOW OFFERS TOP-NOTCH DIVING

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK FREHSEE

Many islands or island nations provide world-class diving with the underwater environment being the main (in some cases only) attraction. Others provide an interesting and worthwhile dive experience but with a great many topside attractions and ancillary activities. For a variety of underwater sites *and* a smorgasbord of holiday pursuits, Barbados is hard to beat.

Barbados has, in fact, been an established and recognized tourist retreat since the mid 1700s. It was considered, primarily by the English and other Europeans, to possess unusual health properties. Bathing in the Barbados surf was reported to cure and prevent a variety of illnesses. Today, this easternmost of all the Caribbean islands (a map will reveal that Barbados is actually in the Atlantic, outside the arc of the windward chain) has retained all of its natural charm and added many others.

The island country (politically separated from Britain in 1966) is naturally picturesque and almost 100 percent economically self-sustaining. The result is a proud, independent English-speaking population that much appreciates, but is not entirely dependent upon, tourism.

There is a network of more than 800 miles of good paved roads over the 160 square mile island area and reliable taxi and bus transportation. Barbados offers visitors a breathtaking array of tropical scenery and considerable historic interest in the form of beautiful beaches, rocky coves, rolling hills of sugar cane and verdant pasture land, acres of tropical forest and dozens of old manor and plantation houses with a variety of excellent restaurants, clubs, discos, folklore shows and local pubs. There is much more to see and do here than in the majority of Caribbean islands.

Until this trip, my first to Barbados, I knew little about diving around this island. Few experienced Caribbean divers do. Although Barbados' reefs have existed for a millennium, Peter Hughes and Divi Hotels were first to provide modern access and resort support for new, intermediate and advanced divers. About two years ago the Divi Hotel Group bought two existing resorts in Barbados and quickly and efficiently turned them into Divi-style resorts ("barefoot elegance").

Both resorts are gems and truly capture the spirit of Barbados' casual but tasteful ambiance. Divi Southwinds Beach Resort is on 20 acres of lush greenery and a spectacular one-half mile long beach with powder sand and gentle surf in the exciting and popular St. Lawrence Gap area (southwest coast). There are 166 air-conditioned guest rooms, studios and suites, each with a private balcony or patio with pool, garden or ocean views. There are a series of huge freshwater swimming pools and two lighted tennis courts. The open air restaurant and lounge and smaller poolside lounge provide international and Bajan specialties.



Nature wastes nothing: A hungry lizardfish makes a meal of a sick and dying goatfish.

The slightly smaller Divi St. James Beach Resort (adults only) has 131 guest rooms and suites on the exclusive Gold Coast (western shore). Fronting a gorgeous Barbados beach, the Divi St. James package includes a variety of watersports such as boardsailing, waterskiing, Sunfish sailboats and snorkeling.

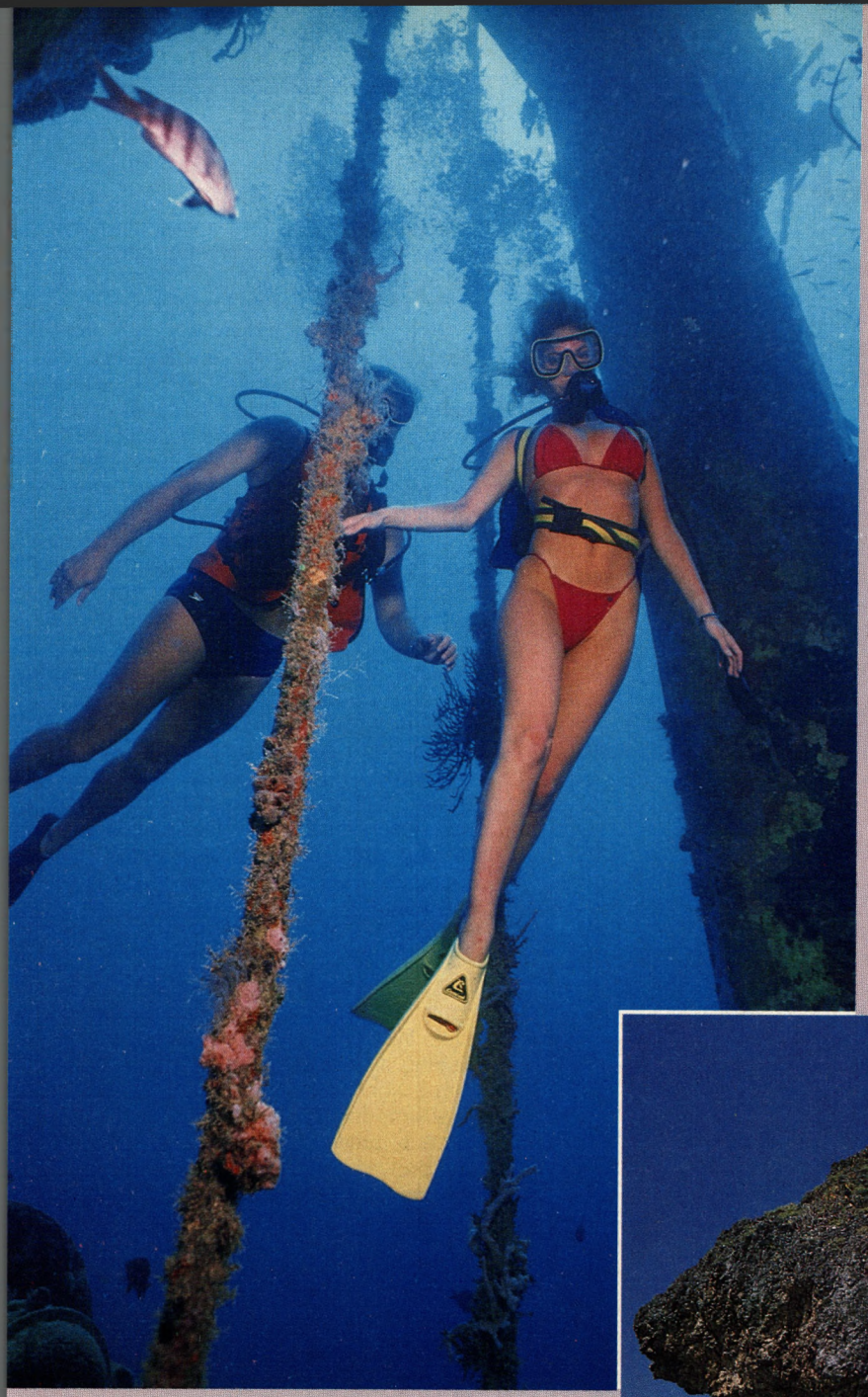
I stayed a week at each Divi resort and changed my mind several times as to which I liked best. Subjectively, I think St. James is a little more laid back; the Southwinds slightly more sophisticated. The Southwinds is closer to some delightful music lounges and jazz bars near the capital city of Bridgetown (also the airport). The Southwinds beach is picture perfect and the folkloric show at St. James is interesting and well performed.

Peter Hughes' Underwater Barbados is at St. Lawrence Gap, a small scenic cove almost bordering the Divi Southwinds Beach Resort. This full service dive operation has the same equipment, professional staff and attention to detail divers have learned to expect from Peter Hughes throughout the Caribbean, only on a slightly smaller scale. Underwater Barbados caters to individuals and groups of 5-20 divers. The boat trips I took had 8-15 divers aboard. Snorkeling outings (15 people maximum) and resort and certification courses (NAUI/PADI) are offered regularly at both resorts.

The main dive boat is the *Solar Rainbow*. It is 31 feet long with two 150 hp engines. The boat is equipped with two-way radio, first aid kit and oxygen. There are also coolers for drinks and snacks. The second boat is the 26 foot *Sun Dancer*, powered by two 135 hp outboards. It has the same equipment as the *Solar Rainbow*. The professional staff includes PADI/NAUI certified guides (divemasters) and instructors.

Virtually all of the sport diving on Barbados is on the calmer, leeward southern and western coasts close to Underwater Barbados. The diving is characterized by patch and fringe reef areas with a linear barrier-type reef on the outside. The shallow reefs range from 20-40 feet deep. Some of these are near shore and inside protected bays but boat diving is almost always preferred to shore diving. The shallow reefs provide safe harbor for a variety of reef fish and tropicals, a splendid selection of invertebrates and some schooling baitfish.

The outside fringing and barrier reefs average from 60-100 feet deep. These reefs, referred to by locals as "bars," run parallel to shore and are commonly termed inside, mid and outer bars. The outer reefs are high profile and are decorated with a variety of soft corals, sponges and gorgonians. Visibility averages 60-80 feet and 100 feet is common. During my stay we had some heavy winds so visibility was reduced. Expert local divers report that visibility can fluctuate daily and 150 feet is not impossible. While Barbados diving does not sport the



Left: The 365 foot Greek freighter *Stavronikita* is one of the most dramatic wrecks in the Caribbean. Peter Hughes' Underwater Barbados visits this and other exciting sites. Below: The restaurant and lounge at the Southwinds Beach Hotel.





Right: A wave-sculpted rocky formation on Barbados' north coast. Below left: The pool at the Southwinds Beach Hotel. Below right: A room at the Divi St. James Beach Resort. The Divi St. James package includes a variety of watersports such as boardsailing, waterskiing, Sunfish sailboats and snorkeling.







Peter Hughes Dive Bonaire, and **Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino** continue to be recognized as the world's most versatile and complete dive resort and the standard by which others are measured.

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DIVI BARBADOS

unlimited visibility of Cozumel or the Caymans, many fish and invertebrates can be found that are different from those found elsewhere in the Caribbean.

My first Barbados dive was on a shallow patch reef just five minutes north of Underwater Barbados. The reef, while low profile, was a virtual forest of frothy seawhips, seafans and seaplumes. Some of the purple seafans were nearly six feet wide. Swarms of big-eyed squirrelfish found shelter beneath ledges and overhangs. The animals thriving in this lush forest are as varied as their habitat. The long-lure frogfish, in yellow or rust, has a modified spine on its head that it wiggles as bait to tempt smaller fish. Schools of blue tangs or surgeonfish as well as *Lima lima*, the flame scallop, waving fiery tentacles, were common sights. Red banded coral shrimp hiding in host anemones were numerous. Huge brain corals were everywhere. The reef itself was encrusted by fire sponges and capped with *Millepora* (fire) coral. Red lipped tunicates and lettuce slugs were easily found.

Later, on our second dive, we did some bottle collecting back at Carlisle Bay. You are allowed to collect antique bottles that lie in harbors and near wreck sites. We found a couple of keepers, including a hand blown brown beer bottle with a concave bottom. Finds vary from nearly modern to rare Hamilton and Codd torpedo bottles and hand blown black and brown beer bottles dating back as far as the late 1600s. Strictly speaking, spearfishing is legal in Barbados but Underwater Barbados does not allow this activity from aboard its vessels.

The second day we started a series of deeper dives to the magnificent wreck of the *Stavronikita*. This 365 foot Greek freighter is the premier Barbados dive site and ranks among the most dramatic wrecks in the Caribbean. The freighter was gutted by fire in the early 1970s and sunk intentionally in 1978, some 400 yards off the shore along the midwestern coast at Fitts Village. She now sits upright with her keel in 150 feet of water and her uppermost structure within 55 feet of the surface. A forward mast looms from the deck to within 25 feet of the surface. After the wreck is located, *Solar Rainbow* attaches to a midwater buoy off the masthead. Descents and ascents are made on the masthead and sojourns aft include visits inside the superstructure. Well-planned advanced dives can be made as deep as the huge prop beneath the fantail, but most divers will be content to explore the decks and houses with greater bottom time. Actually, the view from the deck is the most spectacular with the huge triangular struts of the forward mast

reaching toward the surface in dramatic silhouette. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of sergeant majors flit about the upper portion of the mast like bees on a hive. Water temperatures here, as elsewhere, were mild and tropical. Most divers on a two tank dive will want to wear a wetsuit jacket or a one piece nylon bodysuit. The SS *Stavronikita* is one of the largest and most memorable shipwrecks in tropical sport diving.

My most impressive dive, however, was not on the *Stavronikita*. It was a leisurely shallow sortie to three small wrecks off the southwest coast—all visited on one single tank dive, Michael Young style. Michael is more than the Underwater Barbados dive operations manager: He is a magician and underwater animal trainer. I have seen a lot of Caribbean experts but Michael absolutely amazed me.

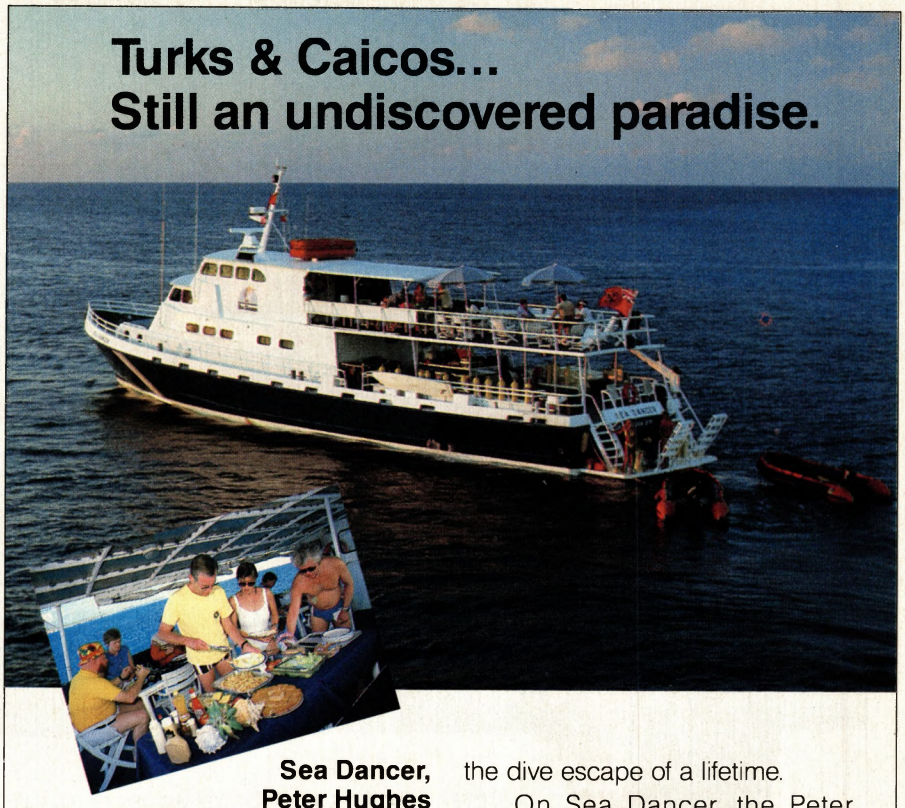
The most notable of the three wrecks is the *Berwyn*, a French tug that sank about 1920. The 60 foot wreck sits upright in less than 30 feet of water and reaches to within eight feet of the surface. Obviously this is a good site for beginners as well as snorkelers. But, for intermediates and advanced divers, Michael Young has turned this wreck and the other two into a menagerie. This is an absolutely ideal tour for photographers and a must for marine life observers. One by one, Michael locates, displays and sets up photos (he is an accomplished underwater photographer himself) with a variety of marine creatures not often seen. Starting with several tropicals that will literally kiss the lens of the camera, he next finds several long-lure frogfish, each one larger than the other. The largest, about eight inches long, thrilled my dive partner, model Stacey Albinder, who cradled the bright yellow frogfish with an upheld hand while I snapped photos. After the frogfish came a series of seahorses, some rust, others bright yellow. Then came a primitive looking flying gurnard. It looked somewhat bored with this interruption, but was nevertheless a superb and unusual subject.

On the next wreck Michael produced one of the largest green morays I have ever seen. He fed the huge creature tiny scraps of fish held firmly in his mouth. When the moray moved too quickly, he scolded it firmly by tapping its nose. Watching Michael with his moray, I got the same feeling that I get when watching a trapeze artist performing without a net.

Michael wasn't just showing off for SKIN DIVER. I talked to other divers on Barbados who also shared the thrill of Michael's three wreck, multi-critter show. It's standard operational procedure at Underwater Barbados. I'm told that a night dive on the three wrecks is even more spectacular.

Underwater Barbados' assistant operations manager is the capable and talented Michael Seale, also a Barbadian with

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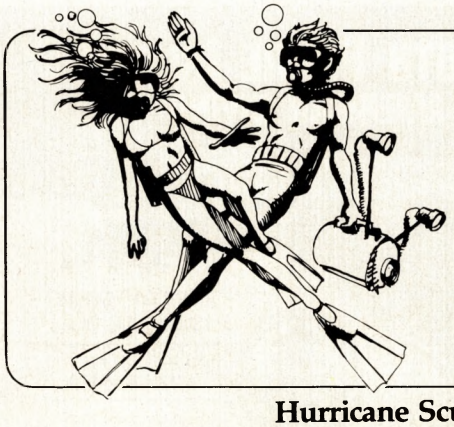


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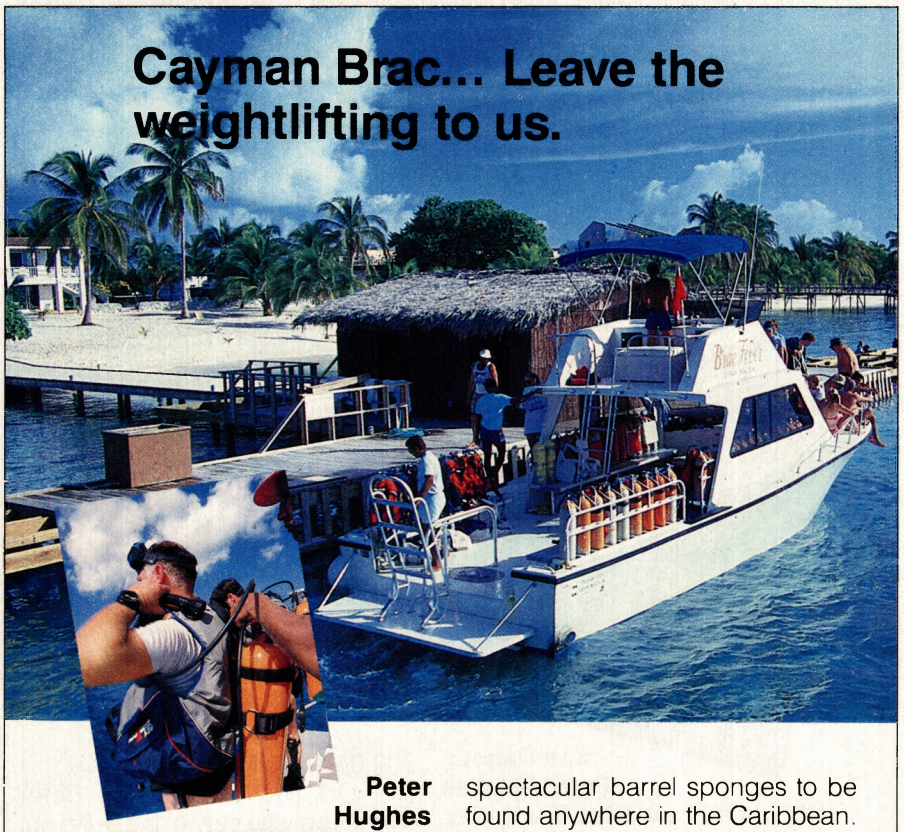
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DIVI BARBADOS

considerable diving experience. Seale is more mechanical and operations-minded and will be heading up a separate satellite operation at the Divi St. James Beach Resort by publication of this report.

The establishment of this second operation will improve the logistics and support for Divi St. James visitors as well as expand the diving territory of Underwater Barbados. Visitors can now move back and forth between the two dive operations if they please.

With the critters and the wrecks I found more adventure in Barbados' underwater world than I anticipated, but it was the topside charm of Barbados that ensured a return trip in the near future. The hotel ambiance and nighttime entertainment was exceptional. The food at the Divi Resorts and elsewhere at specialty restaurants was fabulous and reflected an English, African and Antillean tradition. Seafood, Chinese, Italian, West Indian, cheeseburgers and pizza were all served as though each was an island specialty.

Entertainment in a variety of pubs, clubs and discos close to Divi Southwinds revealed a talent and sophistication with popular and contemporary music nearly unmatched in the Caribbean.

Barbados is just 21 miles long and 14 miles wide so traveling around the island is possible in a few hours. It will take a day or two depending upon how serious you are about topside photography. Barbados provides many scenic memories. It is an island of history and culture, with museums and art galleries, gardens and caves, manor houses and cathedrals.

There is plenty of tennis, golf, horseback riding and squash and all the favorite watersports are popular here. On Barbados' windward coasts and along the southern end, surfing and windsurfing abound. Shopping is excellent. There are dozens of local handicraft shops and good bargains on all kinds of clothing from cashmere sweaters to Irish linens, Swiss watches, French perfumes and quality photo, video and stereo equipment. Many liquors are available at considerable savings.

My favorite above-water daytime pursuit was a combination of driving and hiking away from the tourist areas. Rural Barbados is fishing boats, pasture land, spectacular palm lined coasts dotted with rocky outcrops and, on the eastern coast, a sparkling, foaming, crashing sea, as well as friendly people everywhere.

For more information on Barbados contact either Peter Hughes' Underwater Barbados; Divi Southwinds Beach Resort; Divi St. James Beach Resort; Divi Hotels, 54 Gunderman Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; telephone (800) 367-DIVI or (607) 277-DIVI.

JOURNEYS END CARIBBEAN CLUB

Journeys End Caribbean Club is the newest full service beachfront resort in Belize, 4.5 miles north of the town of San Pedro on Ambergris Cave. Formerly an exclusive private estate, it is now a popular resort for watersport minded travelers and those wanting the very best in a Caribbean beach resort.

The full service resort offers all watersports including diving, snorkeling, fishing on its own boats; airboat rides; windsurfers; Hobie Cats; paddleboats; waterskiing; Jet Skiing, canoes—as well as volleyball, horseshoes and many more activities. There are 10 beachfront mahogany paneled cabañas, with ceiling fans, optional air-conditioning, double beds, individual porches and a view of the Caribbean Sea and barrier reef.

Ten new villas opened recently. These are super deluxe, with stucco construction, tile floors, mahogany ceilings, individual porches, ceiling fans and optional air-conditioning. There is a three bedroom, three bath guesthouse on the beach constructed of local mahogany, with TV, stereo, kitchen, living room and wraparound porch.

The main clubhouse features telephones, fax, computers, a TV lounge and dining room serving a varied menu. The open air Driftwood Bar is the "in" place on the island for fine drinks with frozen margaritas and piña coladas. Set right on the beachfront it offers a view of the beach, coconut palms and the waves breaking on the barrier reef.

For information and reservations contact: Go Diving, 7630 W. 78th St., Minneapolis, MN 55435; (800) 328-5285 or (612) 942-9687 (MN).

M/V BEANER

First mate Karen Brockfeld of the M/V *Beaner* recently received her Coast Guard captain's license. The organization has also hired another captain/divemaster, J.P. Westbrook.

This spring, the vessel will be operating seven days per week. Westbrook will be captain on weekdays.

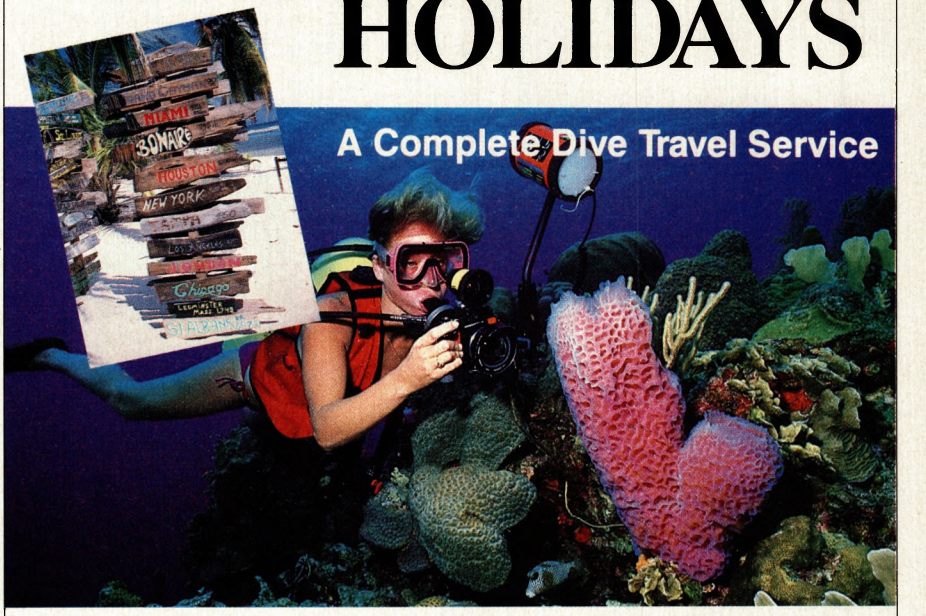
The package includes continental breakfast, non-alcoholic beverages, lunch, tanks, weights and air. All you bring is your soft personal gear. There are charters available for half day, full day weekend, weekend with night dive, and night dives. The weekend night dive includes dinner.

The *Beaner* has moved to a new location on Lake Norfork at the spacious Lake Norfork Inn and Marina. There is a hotel with a restaurant and lounge. Lake Norfork Scuba Center, a full service facility, is on the dock.

For further information contact M/V *Beaner* Charters, c/o Wayne and Karen Brockfeld, 1979 Lakeaire, St. Louis, MO 63138; (314) 355-0409.

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Rates are in U.S. dollars reflecting Miami departure, effective thru April 9, 1988, and subject to change without notice.

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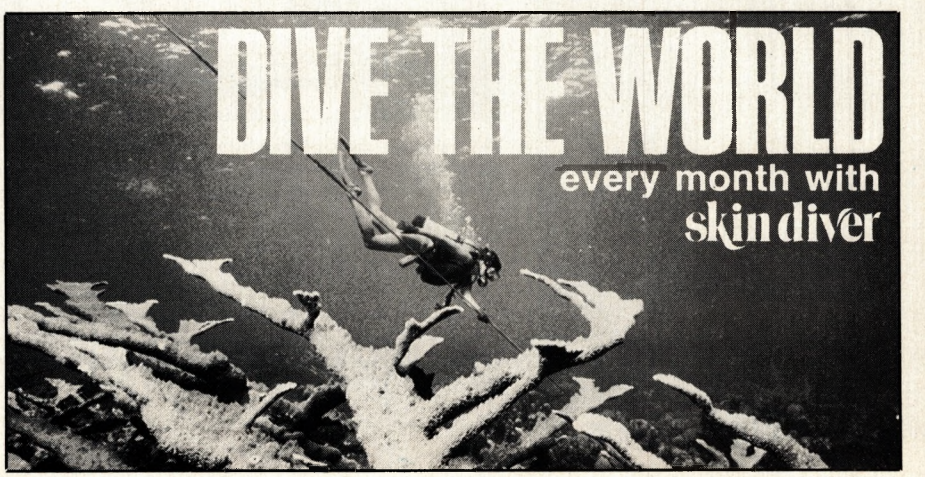
* When you call, ask for our new Divi Holidays color brochure with complete rate and package information.



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BAYMAN BAY CLUB

A TREE HOUSE RESORT IN THE BAY ISLANDS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON

If I didn't know better, I could easily be convinced that Johann Wyss' *Swiss Family Robinson* was inspired by the beautiful Bayman Bay Club.

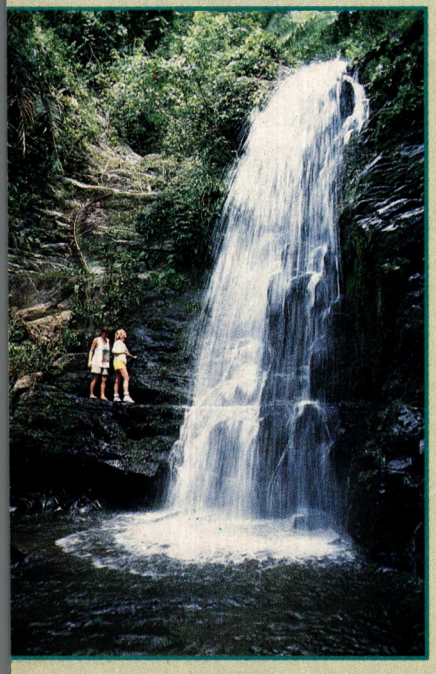
Fashioned from a tropical jungle and built on a mountainous slope, the Bayman Bay Club has a hypnotic ambiance. Obscured from the sea by a profusion of thick hardwoods, mango trees and coconut palms, it nestles on the north shore of Guanaja in the Bay Islands of Honduras.

The native wood, three story clubhouse and the tree house styled cabañas are surrounded by the fruit and foliage of a tropical island paradise.

Creator/owner Tom Fouke is the moving force behind the Bayman Bay Club. Tom's personal knowledge and historical interest in the Bay Islands, and Central America in general, mesmerize the would-be listener. He could easily have been a descendant of the adventurous Robinson family. After an army stint in the jungles of Panama, Tom fell in love with Central America and, in particular, the Bay Islands. After clearing the jungle and helping design and build the club, Tom still spends most of his time overseeing the operation. Resident manager Jay Stephens has been in the islands for the past ten years. Jay's capable leadership and concern for his guests are evident in the attitude of his staff.

Since opening in 1975, the Bayman Bay Club has enjoyed a steady stream of returning divers with many new travelers just discovering what is truly unique about this island dive resort.

Guanaja is small, with little change since Columbus' discovery of the island in 1502. English is widely spoken, a result of the English ancestors of the Bay Islanders. Guanaja and the Bay Islands seem totally removed from the mainland of the Central American coast. The troubles in other Latin countries are nonexistent here. The soon-to-open Roatan International Airport will be servicing most commercial airliners from major U.S. gateway cities. A short hop from Roatan to Guanaja aboard an inter-island airplane will be a welcome convenience for most travelers. I still prefer the present means of travel, however. Tan Sahsa's modern jets from Miami, New Orleans and Houston offer daily flights with a





The Bayman Bay Club offers diving on well formed coral reefs with healthy populations of marine life. Top: Black crinoids at Vertigo. The native wood, three story clubhouse and tree house styled cabañas are surrounded by the fruit and foliage of a tropical island paradise. The grounds behind the resort rise sharply toward the pine covered mountains. Left: This waterfall is just a short hike from the Bayman Bay Club. The open air clubhouse has a dining room, bar, game room, library and observation deck. Above: The wet bar in the clubhouse.

short stop in San Pedro Sula. Then there is a quick flight and possible layover in the coastal town of La Ceiba before crossing the open ocean to Guanaja.

As rugged and pristine as Guanaja's mountains are topside, underwater the prolific reef formations are equally varied. The island is protected by a fringing barrier reef that drops vertically on the outside to more than 180 feet. In addition to well formed coral reefs and healthy populations of tropical fish and marine animals, Guanaja has impressive caves, caverns and canyons resulting from the volcanic formation of the Bay Islands. The reef system around the island is so expansive that one week's visit is not long enough for you to savor the entire beauty of underwater Guanaja.

During our short stay we visited some of the more popular dive sites as well as discovering a new one we later named "Gorgonian Heaven." Divemaster Beau Bush, a young Bay Islander and former commercial diver, was eyeing landmarks for another dive location when the depthfinder took an erratic jump. Our group elected to explore the new site and quickly made preparations to dive.

The top of the wall begins at 40 feet and plummets vertically to a depth of about 120. Natural cuts through the barrier wall are highlighted by meandering coral knolls that form mini-walls in 80-120 feet of water. Large basket sponges hang precariously from the wall like a display at the local strawmarket. The entire wall is overgrown with delicate laced works of deepwater gorgonians.

An area called Black Rocks is a fine example of the violent birth of the volcanic island. At Beau's Canyon the once molten lava that poured into the sea formed hollowed tubes. Looking much like a giant welder's bead inside, the interconnecting passageways provide an exhilarating experience. The Bayman Drop features rollercoaster-type coral formations that are adorned with colorful hues of tube, vase and finger sponges. Several inside walls, undercuts and sand chutes are filled with thousands of glassy copper sweepers.

Much of the best diving is found along the north shore of the island, right in front of the Bayman Bay Club. There, unlimited beach and night diving on Kitchen Reef is encouraged.

There are more than 20 dive sites within a 20 minute boat ride from the Bayman Bay dock, and quite often the divemasters will venture around the island to other popular sites.

Vertigo was one of my favorite dive sites. A large population of black crinoids can be found clinging to every sponge and gorgonian. I have only seen black crinoids off Bonaire but, even there, not in the clustered colonies we experienced at Vertigo. In one large barrel sponge we found a dozen or more. The resident schools of cuberas, mutton snappers and friendly groupers are not too shy to pose for a photo or two.



Above: The main clubhouse at Bayman Bay Club. Wooden walkways connect the resort's structures with the beach. Right: The clubhouse lounge.

For the underwater photographer, BBC offers E-6 film processing and viewing. The 40 foot, spacious and well equipped dive boat *Nimitz* has plenty of deck space for cameras and a freshwater rinse. A new and much faster 37 foot diesel dive boat will soon be in service. It will allow guests to explore some of the more remote dive sites around Guanaja.

For non-regimented divers, there are plenty of post dive diversions. The open air, three story clubhouse is constructed entirely of island wood with a dining room and bar on the main level. The second level is a combination game room and library tastefully decorated with nautical furnishings. There are hundreds of books and magazines available and an assortment of games such as checkers, backgammon, chess, cards or billiards. The upper level is an observation deck complete with hammock and an incredible view of the rolling countryside.

Meals are a tasteful combination of familiar and native delights served family style. Native grown fresh fruits such as breadfruit, papaya, bananas, pineapple and cassava are served with each table setting. Home baked breads and fresh seafood are Bayman Bay Club treats.

Each of the native hardwood cottages is arranged in a private setting, hidden by a forest of palm, banana, sea grape and hibiscus trees. Each cottage, open and airy, has a spacious living area with large comfortable beds, hot showers and a large porch. Each cabin is connected by wooden walkways that lead to a palm lined white sand beach. There are Sunfish and Windsurfers available for guest use at the watersports center.

For the more adventurous, the grounds behind the resort rise sharply toward the pine covered mountains. A steep path leads to Guanaja's highest peak. Michael Rock rises more than 1,500 feet from the sea and offers a breathtaking view of the island. Not far from the BBC is the entrance to a narrow stream choked in dense vegetation. The river path snakes back four miles into an enchanted forest where the natural spring waters bubble from the mountains to form an incredible cascading waterfall.

The Bayman Bay Club and Guanaja offer the serious diving traveler opportunities of adventure unlike most other Caribbean destinations. From volcanic caverns to exotic drop-offs, secluded beaches, sunset cruises and a Saturday night disco—there is something for everyone. For more information write to the Bayman Bay Club, 1 Isle of Venice—206, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33301; or call toll free (800) 524-1823. In Florida call (305) 525-8413. Good luck!

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WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

(Continued from Page 8)

By now, you must be wondering why the National Park Service went to all this trouble over a few measly nails, a coin and some copper sheathing. We can only speculate on their motives. Perhaps they picked on wreck divers because they were an easy setup for scoring some arrests on a technicality. They made the perfect fall guys. Maybe it was done out of frustration because wildlife poachers are so hard to catch and divers are so easy. The park rangers could even the score by hitting the divers. Even the agents from the National Marine Fisheries Service joined in on the fun. These divers were sitting ducks.

There is also the jealousy factor. Park rangers get very possessive about their parks and everything in them. The public becomes their designated enemy, even though the public paid for those parks and also pays the salaries of the rangers.

However, the major motivating factor in this whole unsavory incident appears to be greed and lust for press coverage. By launching a very creative sting operation, the park rangers have attracted a great deal of press coverage in newspapers, newsletters and magazines. Publicity helps the park rangers score brownie points with their superiors and perhaps obtain a little bigger slice of the budget in coming years.

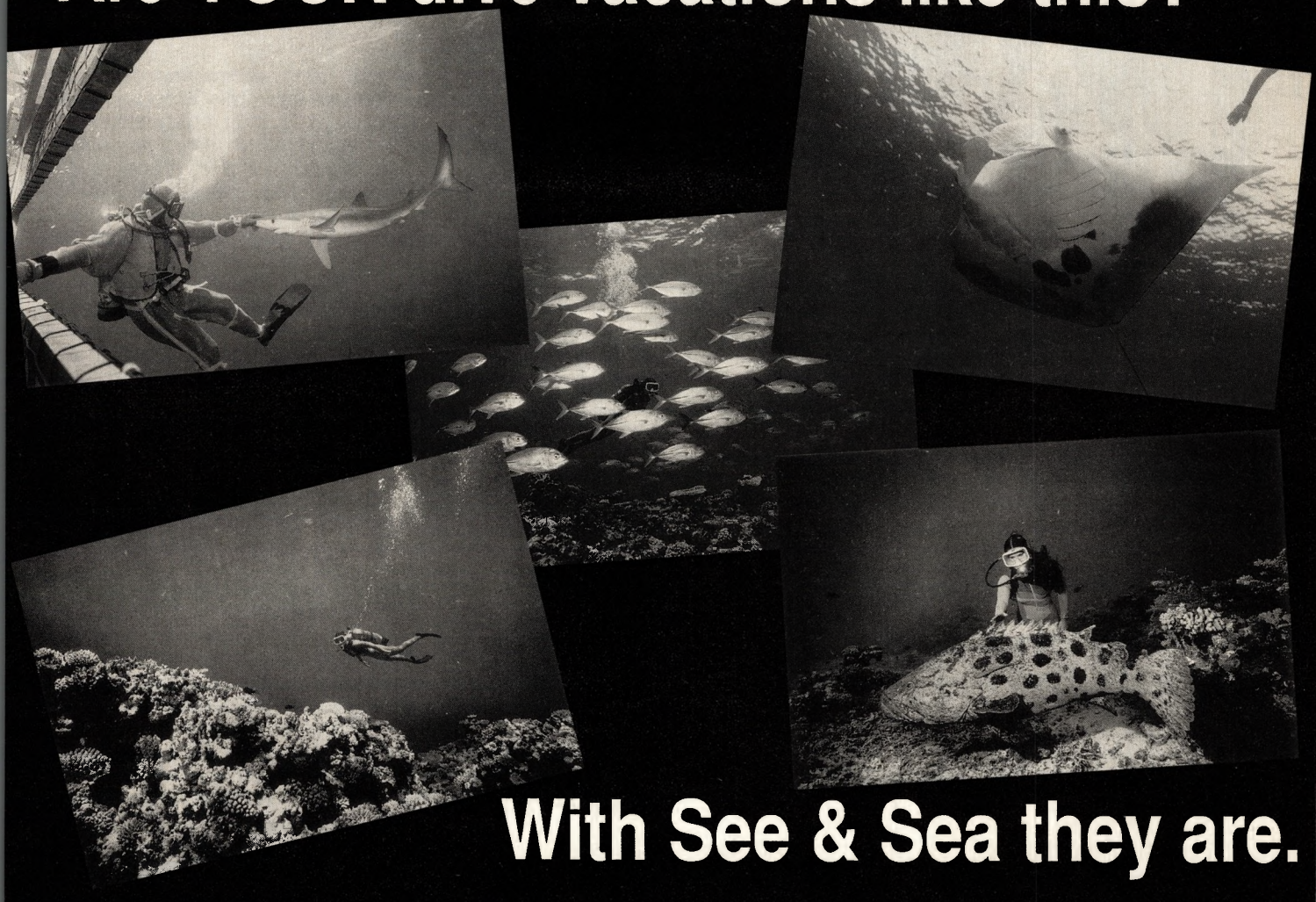
The strategy is simple—create a problem where none exists and then ask for more money to solve or control the nonexistent problem. This is the fuel on which a bureaucracy runs. These so-called public servants care little about the damage they have inflicted on the very public they have pledged to serve.

It is obvious to everyone that the undercover cops could have identified themselves and informed the divers that they were breaking a federal law. Instead, they deliberately set up a sting and had a field day characterizing these citizens as looters and thieves. They neglected to report the total value of the loot amounts to less than $200 and that is owing to the value of the single coin recovered. Two bottles one woman diver had picked up while beachcombing were also confiscated and the woman received a citation for each. Judging by their corroded screw-top lids and contemporary shape, the bottles were a year or two old.

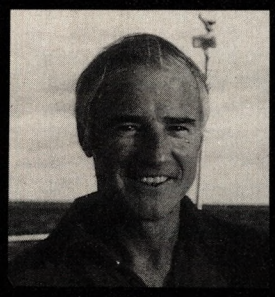
The entire matter is now tied up in a lengthy court fight that will be misery for the divers and vengeance for the National Park Service and NOAA. The government is going to be wasting a lot of tax dollars on a lengthy court case and attorneys.

This ill-conceived publicity stunt may backfire on the park rangers. Perhaps it is time for Congress to investigate the

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WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

National Park Service and its heavy handed methods. This sting operation cost taxpayers a lot of money and resulted in a lot of loot with little, if any, value.

Has this raid on a dive boat taught these wreck divers a lesson? Not really. It has managed to antagonize every diver who feels the National Park regulations are totally unjust and somewhat ludicrous. The kindly Smokey the Bear image of the National Park Service has been tarnished by the treachery of undercover cops deliberately entrapping and harassing the public. I wouldn't be too surprised to learn that divers will begin to lobby their congressmen for a 20 percent reduction in the operating budget of the National Park Service.

I have related this pitiful saga (in condensed form) for one important reason. It is a window into the future. If the shipwreck bill presently before congress is passed, it could mean the end of sport diving as we know it.

A federal shipwreck bill is the ultimate weapon. The government agencies want the wrecks—all of them! Once this bill is passed into law, the bureaucrats will use every trick in the book to declare *every* wreck a historic shrine.

Divers won't be allowed near the wrecks. The creation and training of shipwreck cops will become a lucrative subindustry for the law enforcement fraternity. Dive boat operators and dive shop owners could risk losing their businesses and lifesavings just for stumbling onto a wreck by accident.

If you don't want to see this nightmare happen, help stop the passage of Shipwreck Bill HR-74 with a protest to your congressional representative or by writing directly to: Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chairman, House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

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For information and entry forms contact World U/W Photography Contest, South Florida U/W Photography Society, P.O. Box 610217, N. Miami, FL 33261-0217, or call Bill at (305) 722-6603 or Tamera at (305) 674-0495 evenings and weekends.

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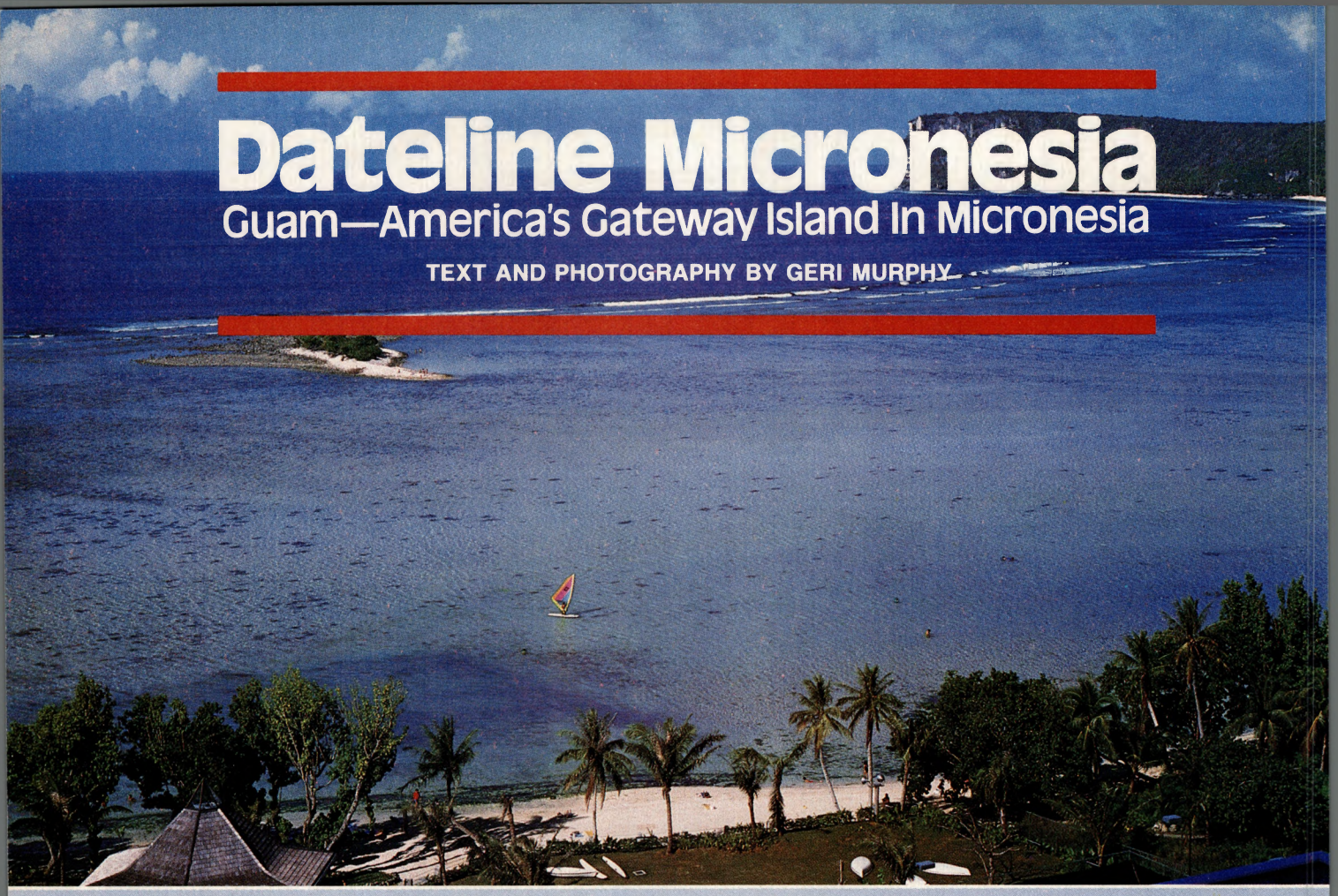
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Dateline Micronesia

Guam—America's Gateway Island In Micronesia

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY



Guam is America's newest and fastest growing resort paradise in the Pacific. Top: A view of Tumon Bay from the Pacific Star Hotel. Right: Continental Air Micronesia operates daily flights from Guam to other islands. Below: The Pacific Star Hotel is Guam's most elegant resort facility.





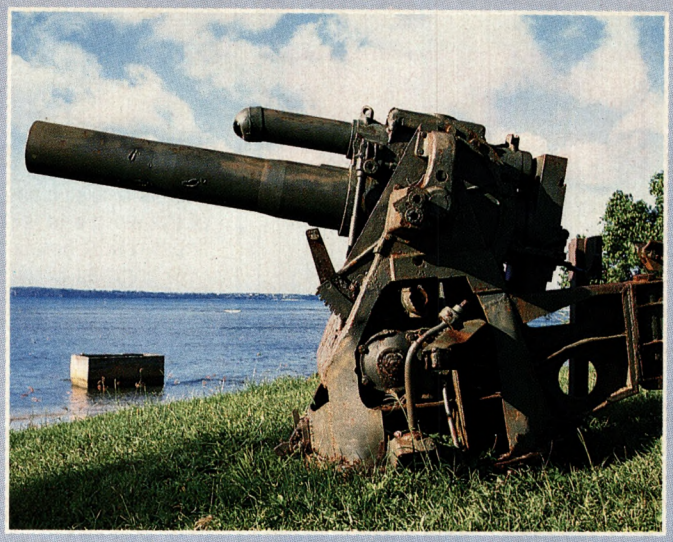
Most divers visiting Micronesia have to pass through Guam at sometime. Here is an island that offers the bonus of unique diving experiences at no extra travel cost. Since you have already journeyed clear across the Pacific to reach this spot, you might as well stop for a couple of days and enjoy the scenery.

The best way to "do" Guam is to spend the first few days of your Micronesian tour relaxing and diving in this tropical wonderland. The stopover will give you a chance to unwind from your long flight and adjust to the new time zone. The diving is convenient and enjoyable. It will also help to prepare you for what lies off other Micronesian islands.

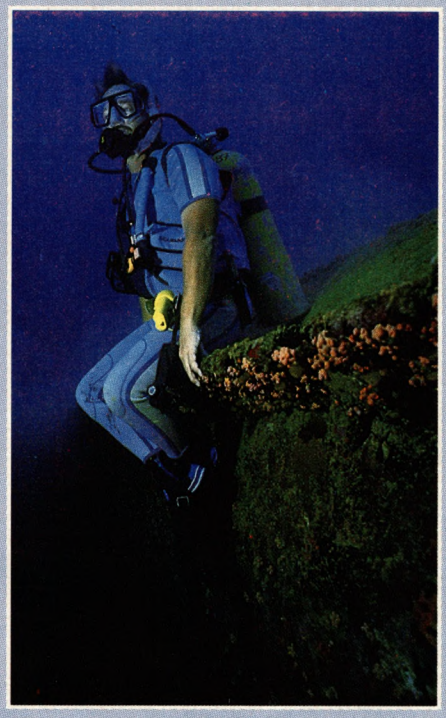
Guam is America's newest and fastest growing resort paradise in the Pacific. It is a territory of the United States, with all the privileges and conveniences found back home. Everyone speaks English, the currency is the U.S. dollar, credit cards are accepted and mail is delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

Guam is in the center of Micronesia, right at the southern end of the Marianas Islands chain. It is some 7,000 miles across the Pacific from the shores of California. It can be reached easily by flying to Honolulu and then nonstop on to Guam. There are daily DC-10 Continental Airlines flights. It takes about five hours to fly from Los Angeles to Honolulu and from









Above left: The Agat headquarters store of Micronesian Divers Association—Guam's largest dive operation. Above right: A World War II Japanese canon at a war memorial park near Agat. Far left: Pacific Star Hotel rooms are well appointed and have an ocean view. Left: Micronesian Divers Association owner Pete Peterson sits on the hull of the *Tokai Maru*.

Honolulu it is seven hours to Guam. You depart the West Coast in the evening and arrive in Guam in the morning.

Guam is the crossroads of the western Pacific and the major gateway into Micronesia. The airport is continually busy with international flights arriving from Honolulu, Tokyo, Nagoya, Manila, Hong Kong, Jakarta and now, Papua New Guinea.

Continental Air Micronesia flights depart each morning for a variety of Micronesia islands. The scheduled air routes radiate like the spokes of a wheel. The eastward route takes passengers to Truk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro. The northward route goes to Saipan, with connecting flights to Tinian and Rota. The southward route leads to Yap and Palau. Flight times vary from 25 minutes to three hours, depending on the destination.

Guam is shaped something like a fat boomerang. It is 30 miles long and varies from four to nine miles in width. The southern half of the island is made up of volcanic hills rising to a height of 1,300 feet. The northern half of Guam is a flat plateau with vertical cliffs dropping off to the sea. Only 900 miles from the equator, Guam has a tropical climate year-round. However, the island's shoreline and beaches are cooled by natural trade winds much of the year. Air temperatures range from 70-91°F. Water temperatures range from 82-84°F.

Guam is in the same time zone as Sydney, Australia. There is a seven hour time difference between Guam and Los Angeles, California but Guam is a day ahead since it is on the other side of the international dateline. When it is 4:00 pm Tuesday in Los Angeles, it is 9:00 am Wednesday in Guam.

U.S. citizens do not require a passport or visa to enter Guam if they are coming directly from the U.S. mainland or Hawaii. However, all visitors should carry proof of U.S. citizenship such as a birth certificate or voter's registration card.

Guam's population is currently estimated at 130,000. The island is a melting pot of exotic ethnic cultures including the indigenous Chamorro islanders, Filipinos, Micronesians, Japanese, Chinese, Koreans and, of course, Caucasians from all over the U.S.

Tourism has become Guam's major industry. The island hosted more than 450,000 visitors in 1987 and is anticipating a big increase this year. There are more than 24 resort hotels, fabulous beaches, a variety of watersports, fascinating sightseeing opportunities and great shopping. Guam can be best described as a young, uncrowded Hawaii that is finding its own identity.

HOTELS

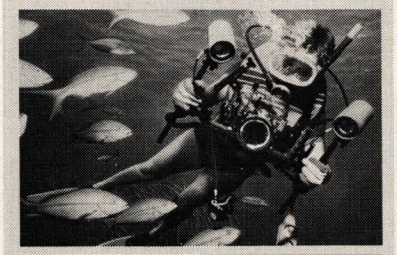
Guam's resort hotels are in the Tumon Bay area of the island's northwest coast. Tumon Bay has one of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the western Pacific and the international airport is only 10 minutes away.

Guam's hotels are ultra modern, first class facilities. They offer a splendid choice of restaurants, air-conditioned rooms, pure fresh water, color TV (cable) and a lovely view of the ocean. Many hotels cater primarily to Japanese tourists, but two resorts cater specifically to both Americans and Japanese.

The largest and most magnificent hotel is the spectacular Pacific Star. This stunning 19 story stone and marble palace contains 436 rooms, six restaurants, an ultra modern health club, swimming pool, convention facilities and numerous retail stores. It is right on Tumon Beach and every room has an ocean view. And, for evening entertainment, there is a dinner show and discotheque.

The rooms are lavishly decorated, air-conditioned and offer cable color TV. Room service is available around the clock and the meals are exquisite. Each room contains one or more telephones

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from which you can make convenient calls to the U.S. mainland. The Pacific Star is a first class hotel in every sense of the word and is regarded as one of the finest resort hotels in Micronesia.

In contrast to the swank highrise Pacific Star, the Pacific Islands Club (PIC) is a low profile facility with a sprawling collection of 203 bungalow rooms spread over a wide acreage of watersports playground. This extremely unique resort features a dazzling collection of manmade waterfalls, winding streams, mini lakes, water slides and swimming pools. In addition, the hotel property is right on Tumon Bay beach.

The PIC is run something like an upscale version of Club Med. Guests are provided with a plastic membership card that allows full usage of the resort's sports facilities. Tiki beads can be purchased and used in lieu of money to buy drinks or gift items. The plastic beads snap together to form necklaces or bracelets for convenient wear when strolling about in a swimsuit.

Guest services include a bar built in a cave with a waterfall entrance, three restaurants, a wedding chapel, disco, a deli, an amphitheater and several boutiques. The Tiki Theater offers a dinner show and dancing afterward. Sports include tennis, a golf driving range, windsurfing and, of course, diving. Scuba lessons are conducted in the PIC pool by Micronesian Divers Association (MDA).

DIVE OPERATORS

When it comes to diving, Guam is well set up with a wide variety of facilities and services. There are at least five full service dive operators and several have multiple facilities. Guam has approximately 3,000 resident certified divers and there is a tremendous influx of Japanese

(Continued on Page 142)

INFORMATION

For more information about visiting Guam, contact any the following:

Guam Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 3520
Agana, Guam 96911
(671) 646-8516
(671) 646-8466
Fax: (671) 646-8861

Micronesian Divers Association
P.O. Box 13005
NS Branch, Guam 96915
(671) 565-2656

Pacific Star Hotel
P.O. Box 6097
Tamuning, Guam 96911
(671) 472-3100
Fax: (671) 646-9335

Pacific Islands Club
P.O. Box 8946
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(671) 646-9171
Fax: (671) 646-5762



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8. Tanker
9. Gabgab Beach
10. Sponge Reef
11. Hidden Reef
12. Finger Reef
13. Middle Ground
14. Seaplane #1
15. Seaplane #2
16. Junkyard
17. Blue Hole
18. Crevice
19. Barracuda Rock

Left: The island of Guam is shaped somewhat like a flat boomerang. It is 30 miles long and varies from four to nine miles in width. Inset: Many of Guam's best underwater sites are within the protected confines of huge Apra Harbor.

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M/S Aquanaut

HOLIDAY

Deluxe Dive Ship in the Dutch A, B, C Islands

Text by Barbara Currie

It was mid-December and my holiday musings were about diving. What surprises would 1988 reveal for divers ready for something truly different?

I had just returned from another week on the M/S AQUANAUT EXPLORER in the B.V.I. when a phone call from Capt. Gerry Hytha, Fleet Captain of Aquanaut Cruise Line Ltd., answered that question.

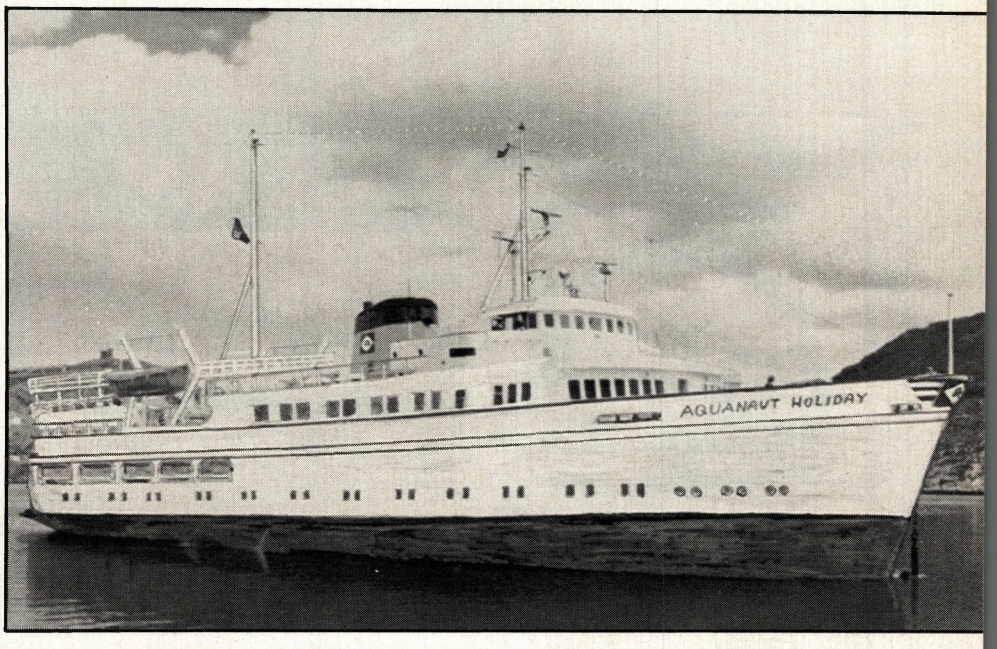
I was invited to meet him and Captain Erich Heindl in Miami for a sneak preview of their new 200′ specialty cruise ship. I expected to be looking at blueprints. Imagine my surprise when I saw the ship coming through Government Cut in Miami. Capt. Hytha had brought the ship from Labrador for renovation and outfitting in preparation for a new Caribbean dive-cruise route.

A few months before, I had seen the artist's rendering of the M/S AQUANAUT HOLIDAY, and heard about Aquanaut's plans to expand the fleet. Like many seasoned divers, I believe elaborate plans only when I see them. Now, here was that ship, much more than just a drawing, with its impressive 200′ length and 40′ beam.

After the success of their first ship during only a year of operation, Captains Hytha and Heindl recognized the tremendous market for Aquanaut's unique combination of cruise-ship comfort, generous amenities and easy but exciting diving in remote locations. They needed another ship. The next surprise was the news that the HOLIDAY would offer 7-day dive cruises in the Dutch islands of Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, known for some of the best diving in the Caribbean. The ship would visit remote reefs and tiny islands and cays seldom explored in those waters.

I looked over the blueprints for the finished ship, a Panama-registered vessel—it's going to be a classy ship, with an impressive variety of services and attractions for divers and non-divers alike.

Only 80 passengers will be able to enjoy each cruise, attended by a crew of 36. The ship's 40 spacious staterooms, all outside cabins with picture windows, will have private bathrooms with freshwater showers; telephone and TV; bright tropical decor and twin or queen-size beds—double occupancy only! Deluxe cabins will also have private balconies, an exclusive Aquanaut feature. All rooms are air-conditioned and will have meticulous steward service, another Aquanaut trademark.



For divers, this will be the ultimate "live-aboard" ship, carrying motor-powered dive boats; a complete dive shop with tanks, compressors and rental gear; photo lab with E-6 processing and rental cameras. Like the EXPLORER, the ship will anchor away from fragile reefs and dive sites. Dive boats will be lowered by ramp into the water, divers will step on board and be quickly transported to dive sites. Full certification and resort scuba courses will be available for those who want to learn the sport.

The M/S AQUANAUT HOLIDAY will launch an unprecedented concept in Caribbean scuba vacations. This incredibly spacious ship has a fuel storage tank that will allow it to cruise distances impossible for smaller live-aboards, and Capt. Hytha suggested other exotic destinations would be possible in the future. This ship also has state of the art communications on board; weather-FAX system and satellite telephone. The ship's water-making unit will provide plenty of fresh water—a luxury on most live-aboards!

That's only part of this ship's attractions.

Aprés-dive activities include relaxing on spacious sun decks; enjoying drinks at the deck bar; dining on excellent fare in two restaurants, one outside and one inside, served by waiters on nicely-set tables. And later: Aquanaut-style cruise ship nightlife. Live music, a ship's casino, floor shows and a discotheque are part of the HOLIDAY cruise.

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DATELINE MICRONESIA

(Continued from Page 138)

tourists who dive.

One of the largest and most popular dive operations on Guam is MDA—Micronesian Divers Association. It has three different store facilities in Yigo, Tumon Bay and Agat. Owned and operated by Pete and Linda Peterson, MDA caters to all three markets: servicemen stationed on Guam, Japanese tourists and American visitors.

MDA maintains an inventory of 180 rental tanks consisting of a mixture of 80, 72 and 67 cubic foot aluminum cylinders. It pumps air from four Mako compressors and has a 15,000 cubic foot air storage system. There are 18 instructors (NAUI and PADI) and a store staff of 12.

MDA operates two dive boats on a daily basis, with four more in reserve for the busy season. The craft range in size from 22 to 42 feet and most boat trips are held to a maximum capacity of eight divers. The Petersons are staunch believers in the philosophy of small dive boats and personalized service. The dive boats operate out of the Cabras Lagoon marina, right off Marine Drive in Piti. This convenient location provides quick and easy access to at least 16 sites in Apra Harbor.

MDA's normally scheduled trips depart at 9:00 am for a two tank dive and at 4:30 pm for a one tank dive. The two tank trip includes lunch and generally returns at 3:00 pm. MDA also runs an early bird one tank dive that departs at 6:30 am. This trip is primarily for experienced divers. There are also night dives that depart around 6:30 pm.

MDA really makes Guam diving a hassle free experience. It operates a daily dive tour bus that picks up guests right in front of the hotel lobby at either the Pacific Star or Pacific Islands Club. It provides guests with computerized maps of Guam dive sites and even detailed drawings of the more complex locations.

DIVING

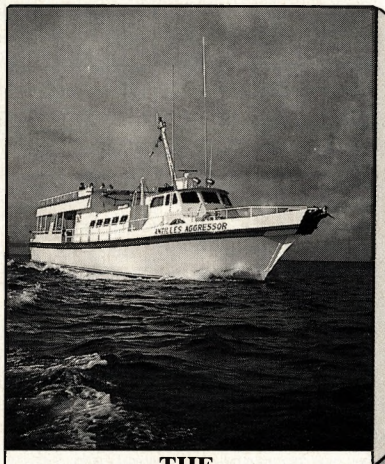
Guam offers an immensely diverse variety of diving experiences ranging from coral reefs to wrecks to caves to swimming with dolphins. The quality of diving runs from good to excellent.

Unfortunately, Guam has been overlooked by many traveling divers—it is often overshadowed by the phenomenal reputations of nearby Palau or Truk Lagoon. Yet, this island offers several unique dive experiences not attainable anywhere else.

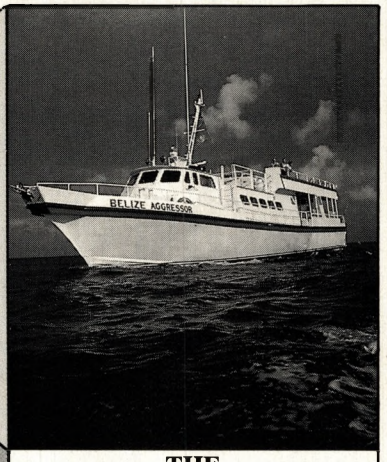
Most of the diving is done along the western side of Guam for this is protected from the trade winds. There are more than 100 different sites, of which 50 are dived on a fairly regular basis. The vast number of sites allows divers to spread out over a wide area (especially on week-

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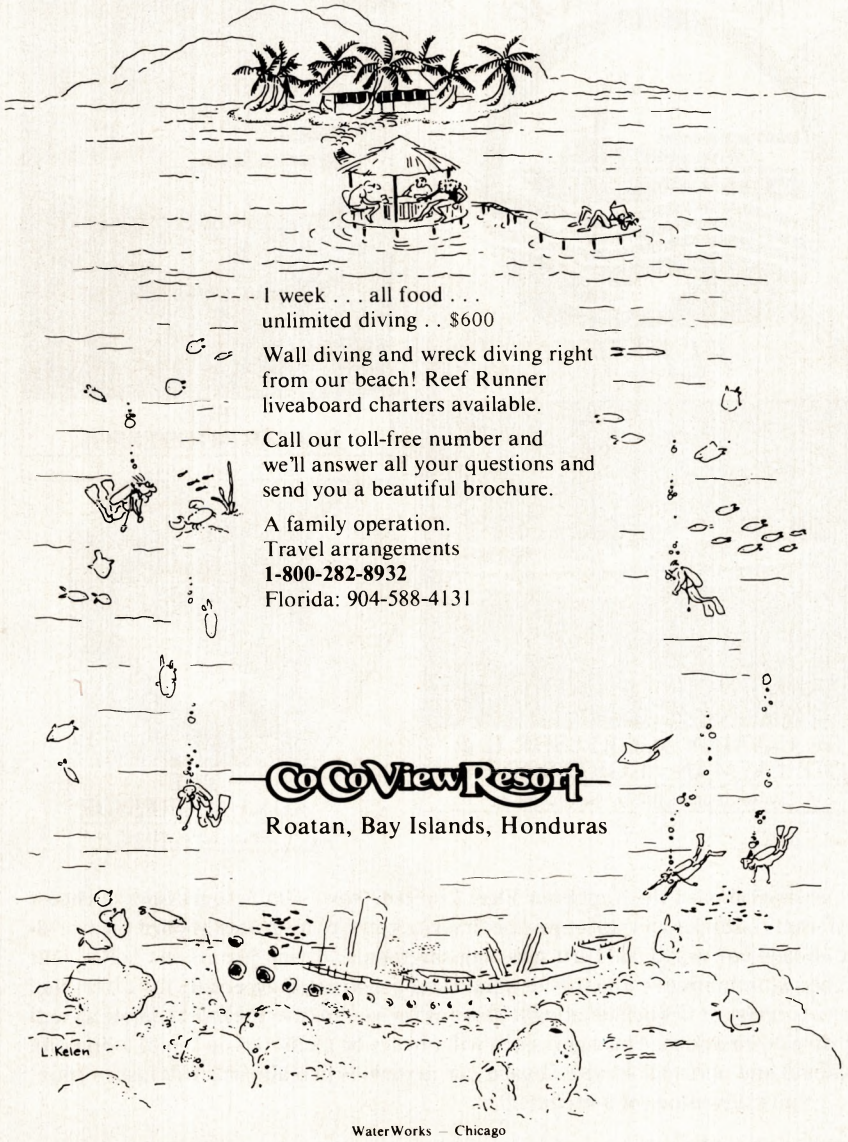
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DATELINE MICRONESIA

ends) and there is rarely more than one small boat on any one site.

Underwater attractions include several vertical drop-offs, lovely coral gardens, medium depth coral reefs, fish feeding sites, World War II shipwrecks, a sunken Zero fighter plane, sunken seaplanes, coral caves and tunnels, plus a dazzling variety of exotic reef fish and coral creatures. Since it is in the center of Micronesia, Guam's reefs are blessed with 300 species of coral and 900 species of fish.

One of the surprising aspects of Guam diving is that at least 16 different sites are within the protected confines of Apra Harbor. This is an exceptionally large body of protected water measuring several miles long and one mile wide. It is bordered by Orote Peninsula on the south and a man-made breakwater on the north. The harbor is especially convenient when the outside seas are rough. You can always enjoy a good dive despite the weather.

DIVE SITES

Among Guam's five top sites, the *Tokai Maru* is regarded as the most fascinating historical dive. The site is actually a double wreck lying in 110 feet of water, right in the center of Apra Harbor. Here, divers can visit the remains of two World Wars on a single tank of air. There is no double wreck like this anywhere else on earth!

The *Tokai Maru* is a 465 foot long Japanese military cargo ship that was sunk on January 26, 1943. A U.S. submarine crept into the Japanese occupied harbor and torpedoed the anchored vessel. The great ship now lies on her port side, still totally intact. Parts of the ship's superstructure rise to within 40 feet of the surface and the wreck attracts considerable numbers of fish.

What makes this site so unique is that the *Tokai Maru* landed on top of a World War I German warship, striking and bending the older ship's rudder. The two wrecks are so close together that a diver can place one hand on each hull. The German vessel is the SMS *Cormoran*, a 335 foot auxiliary cruiser with a 46 foot beam. The German raider was supposed to destroy or capture commercial shipping in Australian waters, but was unfortunately anchored in Guam's major harbor when the U.S. declared war on Germany. She was hurriedly scuttled by her crew to avoid surrender to American naval forces on April 7, 1917. Dwarfed by the giant *Tokai*, the smaller *Cormoran* lies on her starboard side, still intact. Underwater visibility ranges from 40-80 feet.

There are many more dive sites inside Apra Harbor including: the 285 foot Japanese freighter *Kisogawa Maru*; an ocean-going Japanese tug; the American tanker; the bomber wreck; and two seaplanes. There are also six different coral

reef sites including: Finger reef, GabGab, Jade Shoals, Dogleg Reef, Western Shoals and Middle Ground. These spots are loaded with interesting corals, small tropical fish and macro critters. Most Apra Harbor dive sites are only a 10-15 minute boat ride from the marina dock.

One of Guam's most exciting wall dives and the site with the best visibility is Blue Hole. Outside Apra Harbor on the south shore of Orote Peninsula, this spot is 30 yards off a high rocky bluff. The vertical bluff extends underwater to a horizontal shelf at a depth of 60 feet. At the outer edge of the shelf, the reef becomes a vertical wall that drops to 900 feet. The sparkling underwater visibility ranges from 150 to 200 feet.

Close to the edge of the drop-off there is a large vertical tunnel that starts at 60 feet and comes out on the face of the drop-off. The top edge of the exit is at 130 feet and the bottom is somewhere below 200. The combination of super clear water and the gigantic size of this tunnel make the Blue Hole a breathtaking dive experience. You'll find a school of red soldierfish inside the tunnel and manta rays, jacks or sharks often cruise along the outside of the drop-off.

Another exciting drop-off for experienced divers is a site called Crevice. It lies just a short distance from Blue Hole. This spot consists of a 75 foot wide crevice that leads to the face of the drop-off. The top edge of the crevice starts at a depth of 60 and bottoms out at 160 feet. This site has numerous seafans and a number of large fish.

Of all the dive sites along Guam's western side, Double Reef is regarded as having the most beautiful corals. It has a double line of coral formations 60 feet U/W. There are a number of good dives in the Agat area including Hap's Reef, Scott's Point, Coral Gardens and Pete's Reef.

One of Guam's most unique diving experiences is rope riding with the dolphins. Each year from January through June the island is visited by dozens of spinner dolphins. These joyful high jumping mammals frequently pace the dive boats while they are underway, either riding the bow wave or performing aerial twists and spins. These wild dolphins appear to be frightened by scuba, but will allow divers to approach on snorkel. The most fun is to be towed behind a slow moving dive boat while wearing snorkel gear and having one foot inserted into an endloop on the tow line. The dolphins will come right up alongside the towed diver, barely 18 inches from his or her facemask!

SIGHTSEEING

Guam offers as much to do on land as underwater. The island is rich with history and a multitude of cultures. Scenic tours are conducted to more than 25 different sites including ancient Chamorro settlements, Spanish colonial ruins and parks

(Continued on Page 148)

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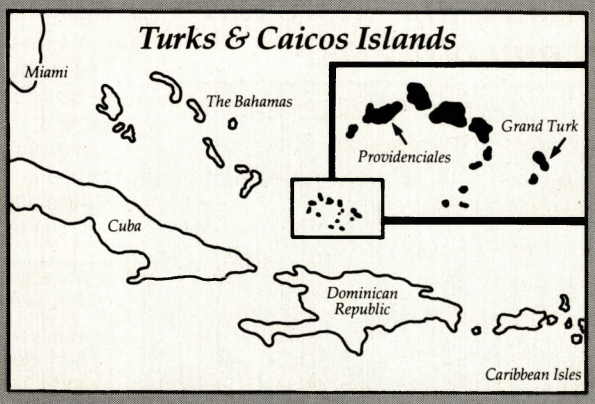
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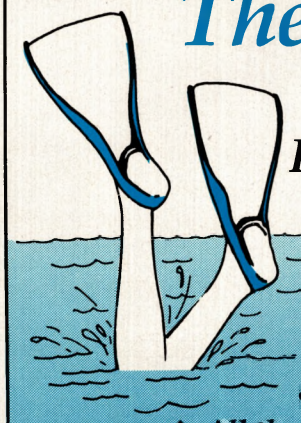
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809-946-2432 BLUE WATER DIVERS
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DATELINE MICRONESIA

(Continued from Page 145)

commemorating famous World War II battles. It would take several days to see it all.

You can arrange to see Guam by tour bus or by renting a car. There is a number of car rental desks right at the airport as well as at the hotels. It is easy to arrange a rental since your U.S. driver's license is accepted. Rentals can be made by the day or for a minimum six hour period. Rental fees are reasonable.

MICRONESIA TOURS

If you are planning to tour and dive several Micronesian islands, chances are you will wish to secure the services of a specialty travel agent familiar with this area. The following is a list of travel agencies that regularly book dive trips to Micronesia:

Aqua-Trek
(800) 541-4334
(800) 826-0057 (CA)

Continental Newmans Tours
(800) 421-3326
(800) 252-4616 (CA)
(213) 552-0901

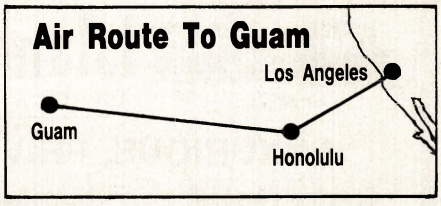
Poseidon Ventures Tours
(800) 854-9334
(714) 644-5344

Sea Safaris
(800) 821-6670
(213) 546-2464

See & Sea Travel
(800) 348-9778
(415) 434-3400

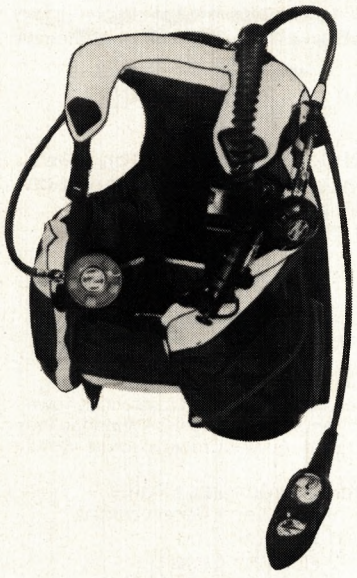
Trip and Tour
(800) 348-0842
(800) 843-8956 (CA)

Tropical Adventures Travel
(800) 247-3483
(206) 441-3483 (WA)



Guam is one of those wonderful offshore islands where Americans can purchase as much as $800 worth of merchandise duty free. As a result, the island has become a serious shopper's bonanza of department stores, jewelry shops, shopping malls and handicraft markets. Among the major items available at tax free prices are such goodies as: expensive watches, French perfumes, gold jewelry, Gucci handbags, jade carvings, sports wear, European leather goods and imported liquor.

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TREASURE COINS

These coins are available at any Berry Scuba location, or by mail from the Chicago store, *(312) 763-1626.* Outside Illinois *(800) 621-6019.*

About these Cobs: All have been salvaged from the sea, and each individual piece is unique. No Cob is the same shape or size, due to the way minted, and the effects of the sea. All have visible markings. *A catalog of coins currently in stock is available* for $2.00 from the Chicago location.





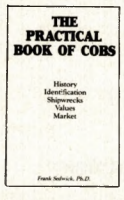


Concepcion - Spanish
Sank in 1641 off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. This style Cob has no date. With certificate. Assorted conditions, from fine to choice.

4 Reale Cob (silver). 14 in stock. *$250.00*
With 14 Karat Gold bezel *$300.00*

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by Dr. Frank Sedwick

The most complete work on Cobs recently published, the Complete Book Of Cobs describes mintages, grading, value, wrecks, heraldry, history, and much more. 82 pages, soft cover. ***$9.95.***





1715 Fleet - Spanish
In 1715 an estimated ten ships sank during a hurricane off the Florida coast. This style Cob has no date. With certificate.

8 Reale Cob (silver), choice condition, 6 in stock. *$275.00.*
With 14 Karat Gold bezel *$355.00.*

8 Reale Cob (silver), fine condition, 15 in stock. *$235.00.*
With 14 Karat Gold bezel *$315.00.*

Joanna - British
Sank in 1682 off Cape Agulhas, tip of South Africa. No dates on this style Cob. Assorted condition, from good to X- Fine. With certificate.

8 Reale Cob (silver). 39 in stock. *$200.00.*
With contoured overlap Silver bezel *$265.00.*
With 14 Karat Gold bezel *$290.00*

Association - British
Sank in 1707 near the Isles of Scilly, southwest coast of England. With dates. Assorted conditions, from fine to choice.

8 Reale Cob (silver). 25 in stock. *$245.00.*
With 14 Karat Gold bezel $325.00.

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6674 N. Northwest Hwy.
Chicago, IL 60631
(312) 763-1626

Berry Scuba Company
1717 Rand Road
Palatine, IL 60067
(312) 358-3848

Berry Scuba Company
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(312) 495-2822

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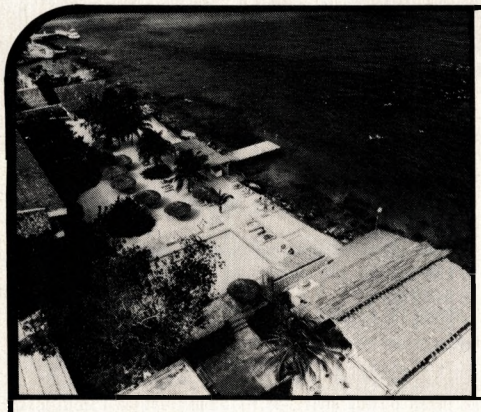
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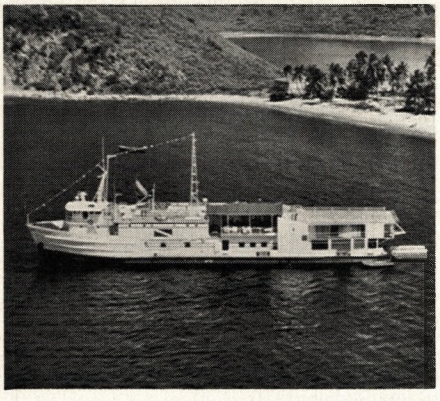
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AQUANAUT EXPLORER

Operated by Aquanaut Cruise Line, *Aquanaut Explorer* sails from Tortola, BVI every Friday on a "seven islands in seven days" adventure cruise offering unlimited diving and snorkeling on virgin reefs.

During its first year of operation, the *Aquanaut Explorer* did not cancel or delay any cruise. This record of no days of diving missed, combined with quality service and facilities, have won it repeat clientele during its first season, according to fleet captain Gerry H. Hytha.

Capable of accommodating 40 passengers in 20 staterooms, each with private bathroom, plentiful freshwater supply and all amenities, the ship is the largest diving-oriented vessel in the Caribbean. It is the only small cruise ship designed for divers in the world. Every cabin has a private bathroom with shower.



Although the ship was designed specifically for divers, and features a complete dive shop, underwater photography lab and two 20 foot dive tenders carried on board, nondivers enjoy the cruise too. The 6,100 square foot sundeck provides comfortable sunbathing in lounge chairs, and passengers can watch their diving spouses or friends a short distance away. Nondivers can learn to snorkel, windsurf or even scuba dive during the week. Both resort courses and full certification courses are offered.

Owing to the success of its first ship, Aquanaut Cruise Line has added another ship, the 200 foot M/S *Aquanaut Holiday*, scheduled to go into service this month in the Eastern Caribbean.

The small luxury cruise ship will carry 80 passengers and cater to an upscale, watersports oriented vacationer. The ship, also bearing Panama registry, will call at many of the most beautiful ports in the region, including Antigua, St. Maarten, St. Kitts and Nevis, with stops at more remote islands for day excursions, beach trips, diving and other watersports.

For information contact Aquanaut Watersports, 241 East Commercial Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334; (800) 327-8894 or (800) 432-8894 (FL).

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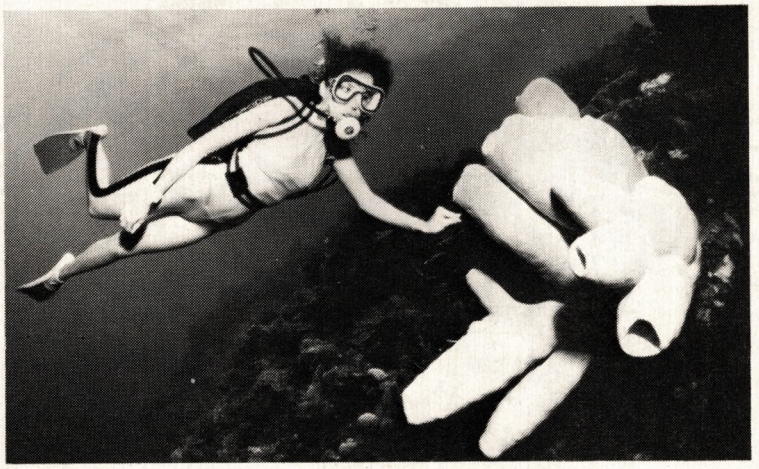


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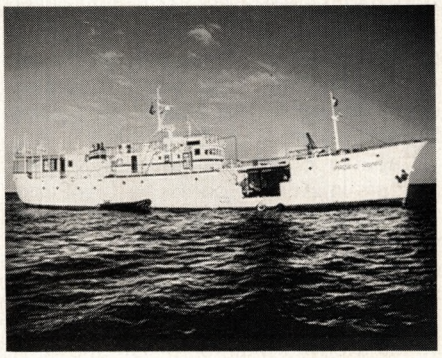
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LIVE-ABOARD NIKONOS SEMINARS

See & Sea Travel, Inc. and Nikon, Inc. are offering a series of Nikonos Technique Seminars on live-aboard cruisers. Professional photographers such as Marty Snyderman, Stephen Frink, Howard Hall, Carl Roessler and Paul Humann will



host 18 seminars throughout the year. Vessels such as the *Cayman Aggressors*, the *Belize Aggressor*, *Isla Mia* and *Pacific Nomad* will offer participants unlimited diving while they learn techniques from the masters. Four seminars are devoted to video techniques. *Pacific Nomad* Cruises, for Nikonos Seminars and otherwise, are as follows: May 5-14—continuing medical education seminar with Dr. Paul Auerbach of Vanderbilt University; June 7-18—a special cruise for nonsmokers with Darien Barker; September 8-20—Touch the Sea with Dee Scarr; October 7-16—Stephen Frink Nikonos Technique Seminar.

For further information contact See & Sea Travel Service, 50 Francisco St., Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94133. (800) DIV-XPRT or (415) 434-3400.

NEW NAUI BRANCH MANAGERS

Larry Newlin and Ben Barrie have become NAUI branch managers. Newlin will handle the Mid-Pacific branch and Barrie heads up the North Pacific branch.

Newlin, a NAUI instructor since 1985, has been diving since the age of 14. He has been in the U.S. Army since 1971. On both domestic and international assignments he has taught scuba diving as he is presently doing while stationed at Fort Ord, California.

Barrie has been diving since 1974 and has been a NAUI instructor for more than six years. He taught diving in the Bahamas and Saudi Arabia. He has been associated with a dive store in the State of Washington and owns an underwater photography shop there. Barrie is certified in several diving specialties with an emphasis on underwater photography.

Duties of NAUI branch managers include organizing, coordinating and promoting leadership and continuing educa-

tion programs; NAUI public relations; assisting HQ with ethics matters; and serving as a local information source for NAUI members.

UNDER THE SUN

Scuba World of New York City and Class V Projects of Steamboat Springs, Colorado have opened their joint venture, Under the Sun, a computerized dive reservations operation serving the travel community, dive shops and public. According to computer program designer and company president, Bill Geoghegan, "What makes this new company so unusual is that we've designed the system specifically for dive travel. Our computers can intelligently tailor a vacation to meet an individual diver's very personal needs. We can search by destination or take a list of a customer's preferences and match it with the amenities a certain dive operation, hotel or destination has to offer, taking into consideration budget, dive interest, location and other activities."

Under the Sun is equipped to book hotel/diving packages, yacht charters, airline reservations, meal plans, car rentals, tour and other activities for the group or individual. For more information, call your local dive shop, travel agent or Under the Sun directly at (800) 782-5247 or, in Colorado, (303) 879-4504.

DAN BAHAMAS COURSE

DAN's 11th Diving Accident and HBO Course will be held May 7-14 at the Lucayan Beach Resort and Casino (with diving by the Underwater Explorers Society) on Grand Bahama. The course is designed for physicians and emergency medical personnel including paramedics and nurses. Portions of the course may be of interest to divemasters, instructors and other non-medical dive personnel. The aims of the course are to provide the facts relevant to understanding the management of diving accidents.

Faculty members include Dr. Bennett, director of DAN; Dr. Mebane, director Education/Training, DAN; Dr. Loewenhertz, co-director, Division of Aquatic and Hyperbaric Medicine, University of Miami School of Medicine; Dr. Zimmerly, Department of Legal Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology; and Dr. Clements, medical advisor to UNEXSO, Grand Bahama.

Special packages are available for hotels, diving and course fees. Further details may be obtained from Cindi Easterling, P.O. Box 3108, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC 27710; (800) 222-9984, (919) 684-6878 or 684-6485.

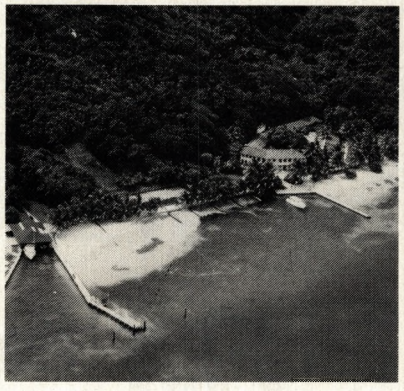
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DIVING LOUISIANA'S OIL RIGS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL BARADA

For divers who have never experienced the excitement of a close encounter with some really big fish, I suggest a visit to the offshore oil drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, off Louisiana. There are more than 5,000 of these rigs extending from shore to more than 100 miles at sea. They serve as artificial reefs that attract the greatest abundance and variety of fish I have ever seen in one spot. When the water is clear, looking down from the surface is like looking into a tank at a marine park. Huge schools of amberjack, cobia, jack crevalle, red snapper and triggerfish swarm around you near the surface, and the shadowy outlines of huge groupers and giant jewfish can be seen circling around the rigging on the bottom more than 100 feet below. Some of these fish are so tame they get in your way when you try to take a picture—and spearing them is simply a matter of selecting the one you want and pulling the trigger. Landing a big one, however, requires a special technique as unique as the environment itself.

But, before you pack up your gear and head for Dixieland, there are a few things you should know about the area and the obstacles that must be overcome. Just getting out to the rigs can be a major operation. The gulf in this area is a delta of the Mississippi River with a bottom composed of mud and silt that extends hundreds of miles in all directions. The ocean floor is so flat it has a downward slope of only one foot per mile, so you can be 20 miles at sea and still be in water only 20 feet deep. The expanse of shallow water has made the gulf the richest offshore oil producing region on earth.

Prior to the advent of offshore drilling, this part of the gulf was a barren ocean with no game fish or other marine life except mud dwellers—because there were no reefs or solid projections to which clinging marine organisms could attach themselves. Thus, the basic food chain could not get started. Today, however, about 30 years after the first oilrigs began to appear, this area is rated as one of the world's greatest fishing grounds. Fortunately, the shallow water puts the bottom beneath most of these rigs within the range of scuba divers. Unfortunately, however, the same shallow water creates other hazards that can be far more dangerous than deep water.

It is estimated that more than 15 million tons of topsoil flow out of the mouth of the Mississippi River every minute. This silt spreads out over the waters of the gulf in every direction, creating muddy, turbid water that makes diving on shallow, nearshore rigs impossible and often even affects rigs in deepwater far from shore.

Another, even more serious hazard is the weather. As one Dixie diver explained, "Our good diving is usually 50 miles offshore, so we have a long run over very shallow water. In the open ocean with no place to hide when the water gets rough, it is dangerous for a small boat." The hazard of rough water during bad weather is so serious that even the commercial diving boats don't go out during the winter and sport divers usually reserve their rig trips to the calm weather months of July and August.

Virtually all rig divers are avid spearfishermen and they have developed special techniques and special equipment for hunting big fish that are almost as unique as the environment itself. The usual equipment for big fish hunting—such as nylon lines, break-away gear, reels, inflatable floats and surface floats—is useless. A nylon line is cut almost instantly by sharp barnacles and a long line is soon hopelessly fouled around the pilings, cables or machinery that clutter the bottom like a junkyard. Rig spearguns are equipped with stainless steel cable 12-15 feet long, attached either to the speargun or to a short piece of rope with a handle called a "riding rig." When a big fish is hit the diver must literally "ride him out," close-hauled, as the fish zigzags through the forest of pilings and rigging. With a riding rig the diver holds the rope in one hand and the gun in the other, then hangs on for dear life as the fish takes him on a wild ride through the rigging jungle. If he is forced to let go, he loses only his spear and saves his gun. Most rig divers wear protective clothing to keep from being hurt when banged into the rigging, and a lot of them carry wire cutters as well as a knife so they can cut themselves free if they get tangled in the mess of junk on the bottom.

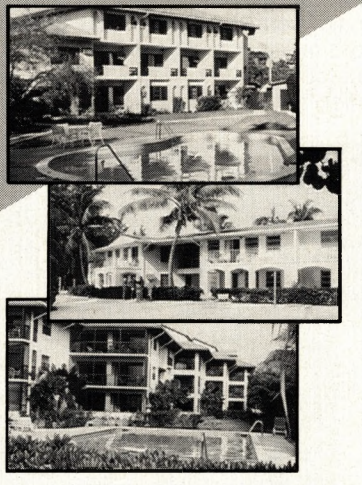
On my first few visits to the rigs the water was too dirty for U/W pictures. Then a tropical storm blew up so violently that weather reports told of 10-12 foot seas rolling over the gulf with winds of 25-50 miles per hour. Large steamers and fishing boats were in trouble and the Coast Guard was busy with rescues. However, my rig diving companions were elated.

"This is what we need," one of them explained. "A south wind blows the muddy water into shore and clears the deepwater reefs. If this wind was from the north you could forget it. The whole gulf would be muddied up for another month. But, let this storm settle down in a day or two and we will have it made."

Their forecast proved to be accurate. The first structure we hit was on the edge of the Gulf Stream, 60 miles from shore

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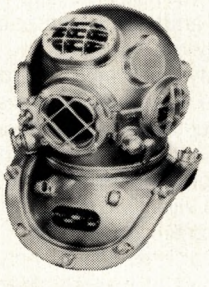
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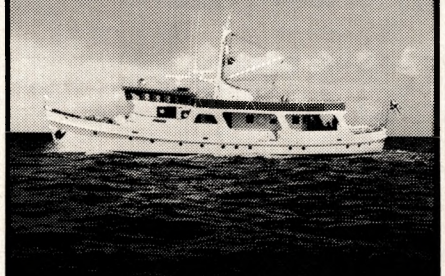
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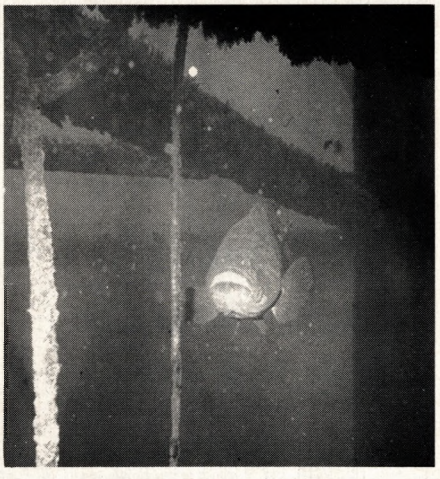
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OIL RIGS

and in 190 feet of water. I dropped over the side and entered an underwater fantasyland. The water was so clear the submerged portion of the entire rig loomed before me like a manmade forest of steel and concrete. Fish were everywhere. Hundreds of them, of all sizes and species, circled the perimeter and swarmed through the inside of the rigging. It was a fascinating sight and I hung motionless, drinking it in.

One diver speared and landed a 30 pound grouper. While he was sitting on a cross member re-stringing his gun I hung outside to photograph the action. A school of large amberjacks swirled

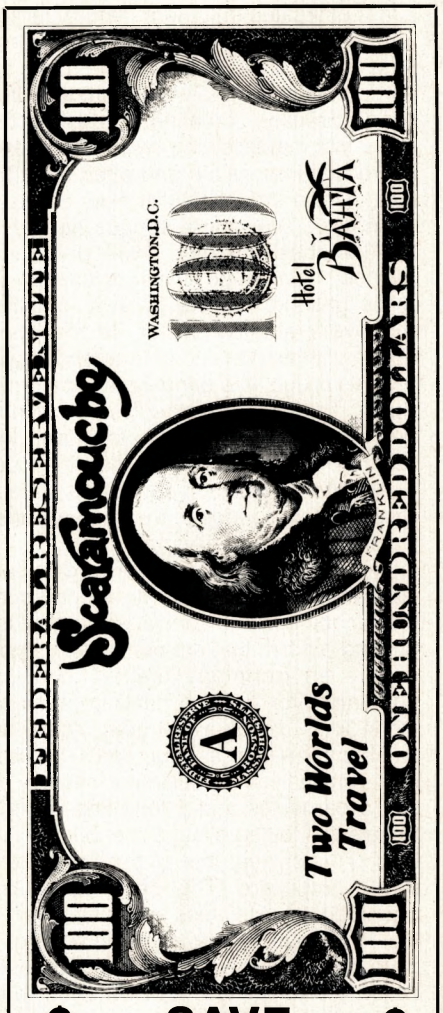


The waters beneath Louisiana's oilrigs harbor monster groupers and jewfish.

around me so thick they blocked my vision and I had trouble getting my picture. As I concentrated on the camera I felt something bump me in the back. I looked around, saw nothing but fish, and went back to my picture-taking. Then something bumped me on the side, another hit me on the head and another on the stomach. I looked down in time to see an amberjack with its nose against my belly. These big fish were swimming around me, completely unafraid—and even while I watched they continued to come in and bump me with their noses. I grabbed one by the tail and there was a wild struggle before the fish broke free. But, after that the amberjack quit bumping me and I finally got my picture.

My companions tied into a couple of nice sized specimens and put on a masterful display of fish-busting as they rode their catch in a mad whirl through the rigging. But, the effort exhausted their air and we returned to the surface for a cup of coffee and a rest.

Our next rig was only 90 feet deep and the water was so clear I could lie on the surface and see big fish moving in and out of the murky water on the bottom. This time my companions ignored the



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huge schools of game fish swirling around us to point out unusual coral formations and other organisms clinging to the pilings that a casual observer would overlook. We burned up half our air photographing these marine oddities. Then one diver spotted a huge grouper on the bottom and the fun began again.

The fish was big—one-half the length of a diver's body and more than two feet thick. The diver maneuvered to a range of six feet, waited until the fish turned broadside, then fired. I had a ringside seat as the fish took off. In a series of wild gyrations, it darted, turned, twisted and zigzagged through pilings and stanchions with the diver hanging on and dodging obstructions like a water skier on a slalom course. The ride lasted less than one minute but every second was packed with action and thrills few sports can equal. When it was finally subdued and boated, the grouper weighed in at 70 pounds. It gave me an idea of what it would be like if that grouper had been a 400 pound jewfish.

On the next rig we hit we ran into jewfish. I was near the center of the rig when a 300 pound monster cruised slowly up out of the murk, looked me over, then started back down. I followed, snapping pictures as fast as my strobe would recycle. The fish was so huge its body was almost as long as mine and it was at least three feet thick. Elated at the opportunity, I adjusted the controls on my camera and automatically checked the frame counter. To my horror, the indicator said I was out of film. With only one shot left, I decided to make it a good one.

I set the focus to two and one-half feet, adjusted the f/stop and began stalking my fish. For about five minutes the fish weaved in and out of the rigging as if trying to hide its huge body behind the narrow pilings. I reversed my direction and met it face to face on the other side. When I snapped the picture the flash went right into his open mouth. That was the most surprised jewfish I've ever seen.

As my fish swam away I looked around and couldn't believe my eyes. Giant jewfish were clustered around me as thick as a herd of cows and the "monster" I had photographed was the baby of the bunch. One of them moved in close to look me over. I won't try to guess its weight but its body was more than seven feet long and five feet thick—and I was out of film. The fish would still be there if I reloaded my camera and returned, but it was past time to head for the surface.

During the long swim up I made myself a promise that someday I would return and get a picture of a diver on a fish-busting ride behind one of those monsters.

More detailed information and a list of charter boats that cater to divers can be obtained by writing to David Stanley, Coastal Fisheries Institute, Center for Wetlands Resources, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.



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Suunto, Inc. has determined that a potentially dangerous condition may exist with certain Suunto mechanical gauges. This condition applies to both depth and submersible pressure gauges. SeaQuest, Inc. has issued an important notice warning all domestic authorized retailers of the potential problem. Under certain circumstances the gauge dial face may warp and block movement of the indicating needle, causing the gauge to read incorrectly. The model numbers of the gauges potentially involved are SM14 depth gauge (150 foot and 230 foot) and SM22 submersible pressure gauge. These gauges are sold separately or in combination with other gauges in console models CB43 or CB42.

Even though only gauges sold between December 1986 and October 1987 may be involved, it is important that all gauges in the field be inspected. Any SeaQuest/Suunto retailer should be able to quickly examine suspect gauges and determine whether servicing is required. If it is, the retailer will return the gauge to SeaQuest. SeaQuest will make every attempt to perform the service as quickly as possible and return the gauge to the owner at SeaQuest's expense.

In the event a SeaQuest retailer is not available to make the inspection, a suspect gauge may be returned to SeaQuest directly. Please address all shipments to SeaQuest, Inc., Attention: Customer Service, 2151-Dept. F, Las Palmas Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92009.

Do not use any suspect gauge until it has been inspected by SeaQuest or an authorized retailer.

CAYMAN TOUCH THE SEA

Fourteen divers will join Dee Scarr to "Touch the Sea" aboard the *Little Cayman Diver* August 7-14. Unlimited diving along Little Cayman's famous walls, excellent accommodations and gourmet food are among some of the features of this trip. Dee will be diving with the participants, sharing her knowledge and giving informal talks on life beneath the sea.

For further information write to the coordinator of the program, Naomi Stern, 100 West 81st Street, New York, NY 10024; (212) 873-4059.

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The Brac Reef Beach Resort, on Cayman Brac in the Cayman Islands, offers a four day/three night Super Winter Saver Dive Package that includes accommodations, air fare and all diving expenses. Guests can also choose a six day/five night package or an eight day/seven night package. Included in the price is round trip air fare from Miami or Tampa, round trip airport ground transfers on the Brac, U.S. departure tax, a deluxe air-

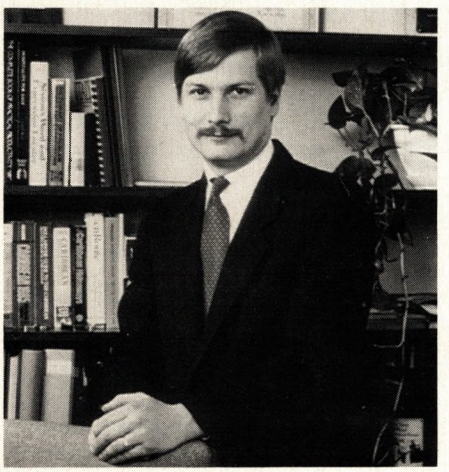
conditioned oceanfront room, three full-course meals daily, unlimited drinks, paddleboats, underwater photography, all offshore escorted dives—including transportation to dive sites such as the famous Cayman Wall at Little Cayman—and lots more. Divers and nondivers can take advantage of these packages through April 10.

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For details call the toll free Brac Reef Beach Resort reservations line at (800) 327-3835; in Florida, call toll free at (800) 233-8880.

WIGGINS/DIVI

Scott D. Wiggins has been appointed vice president, marketing and sales for Divi Hotels. Wiggins, who had been director of Divi's marketing and sales division since May 1984, heads the Ithaca, New York office of the company's subsidiary, Divi Hotels Marketing, Inc.



Though he will continue in the supervision of all marketing and sales activities for the entire corporation, he will be focusing more attention on the development of regional marketing efforts with various hospitality industry associations in the Caribbean.

NAUI VCI GUIDE

Bill High's *A Guide for Visual Inspection of Scuba and SCBA Cylinders* is now available from NAUI. The book is designed to be a resource for both novice and experienced visual inspectors of cylinders and to contribute to improved inspection methods. It contains a wealth of technical information.

High indicates that the Professional Scuba Inspectors sponsored VCI training course is a valuable companion to the guide. The widely offered courses provide the newest updates in a rapidly changing field, as well as an opportunity to use very special inspection tools. Course information may be obtained by contacting PSI at (206) 486-2252.

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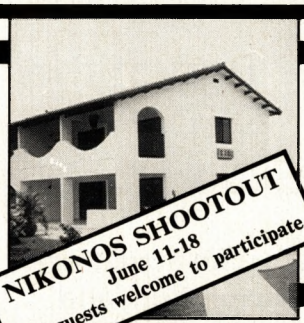
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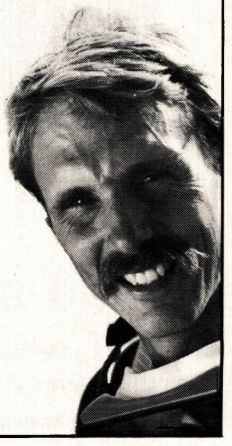
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Corals' sensitivity to temperature changes, especially increases in warmth, have been shown by scientists in Miami and Panama who, for the first time, have recreated El Niño conditions in the lab.

Professor Peter Glynn of the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and his colleagues Luis D'Croz and Jose Gil of the University of Panama and Gustavo Justine A. of Panama's Ministry of Commerce, established numerous coral colonies growing in four different water temperatures. They found that corals live very close to their heat limit—an increase in water temperature of two degrees can kill them, but a 10 degree drop in temperature is needed to have the same result.

What's more, says Glynn, while cool currents are thought to be responsible for limiting coral reef development, severe sea warming may also limit reef growth and has to be considered an important factor in the extinctions of reef building organisms.

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CHARLIE BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD

Christopher W. Dueker, M.D. was the recipient of the second Charlie Brown Memorial Award during the awards ceremony at the 1987 International Conference on Underwater Education held in Santa Ana, California. Dueker was unable to be present to accept the award.

The award was established by the Charlie Brown Memorial Foundation to honor him and those who personify his manner of offering his knowledge to others as a volunteer, in writings, lectures and by general sharing.

In an effort to promote diving safety. Dueker has freely contributed his time and energy at diving safety seminars and instructor training courses. As an active member and officer of the Undersea Medical Society, Dueker has traveled and lectured internationally on diving medicine and safety at sessions of the society and its affiliates.

He has written three textbooks on diving medicine and safety. One of them, *Medical Aspects of Sport Diving*, has been the standard text on diving medicine for years.

The award consists of a brass statue with the figure of a sea serpent coiled around an upright trident, plus a blue blazer with identifying pocket crest and an inscribed plaque.

BONNE TERRE

(Continued from Page 43)

should have the whole Maine lobster, langostinos or blackened yellowfin tuna. When you get a craving for steak try the house's porterhouse, beef Wellington or steak Diane. With food this good, it's a crime to rush through the meal. To help synchronize the service for large groups, the inn has pre-order forms that enable the chefs to prepare and deliver all meals at the same time. Groups usually collect in Goosby's Pub to watch the sunset on the Ozark Mountains' foothills and share anecdotes from the day's diving. Then they settle into a few tables where dinner is served.

In the warmer months, white wicker tables and chairs sit out in the Wine and Beer Garden. While hiking around the estate's trails you may spot albino squirrels, bred by the original French settlers, or come across larger wildlife such as white tailed deer. Even if you fail to sight any critters in the woods, you can always play with the resident mascot, a friendly goose named Goosby, or take one of the Tennessee walkers for a ride. Cooler autumn weather brings hay rides and bonfires and winter's snow permits cross country skiing. There's even an elegant horse and carriage ride for small parties of as many as five. More sizable groups can hire the larger omnibus, drawn by a pair of dappled gray Percherons, to tour the countryside or go for a pub crawl.

Just 62 miles southeast of St. Louis and its busy airport, the Bonne Terre Mine's Billion Gallon Lake and Mansion Hill Country Inn have become a regular resort destination for divers from as far away as California and Colorado. The Mansion Hill Country Inn remains open seven days a week, all year long. Diving operations at Bonne Terre welcome divers Fridays through Sundays. For information about the great North American weekend escape write to West End Diving Centers, 11215 Natural Bridge Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044 or telephone (314) 731-5003.

WRECK VALLEY VIDEO

Aqua Explorers, Inc. has released its first underwater video entitled Wreck Valley Video Vol. #1. This video is not only an introduction to the upcoming series, but also a new way to view the wonders of Wreck Valley.

Volume #1 consists of an interesting yet condensed view of six shipwrecks. This special limited edition, introductory video is from Aqua Explorers, Inc., 22 Maiden Lane, Lynbrook, NY 11563.

For further information on Long Island's shipwrecks please refer to *Wreck Valley: A Record of Shipwrecks off Long Island's South Shore*. Copies are available from Aqua Explorers.



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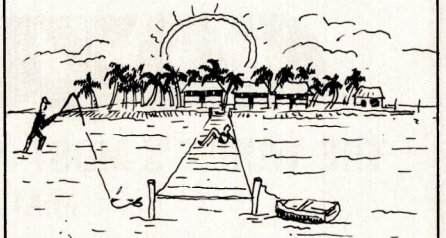
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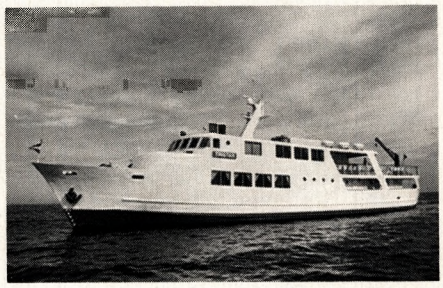
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CARL ROESSLER/ PHILIPPINES



See & Sea Travel, Inc. of San Francisco is offering a dive cruise aboard the *Tristar*, with Carl and Jessica Roessler, May 18-31. The *Tristar* has a crew of 20 and all amenities. The Roesslers' cruise will offer unlimited diving at Tubbataha Reef in the Philippines. The price of this cruise includes a night before and after at the Manila Hotel.

For further information contact, See & Sea Travel, Inc., 50 Francisco St., Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94133; (800) DIV-XPRT or (415) 434-3400.

BEAUTY BENEATH THE SEA EXHIBIT

The WaterHouse, a stock photography agency specializing in underwater and marine theme photographs, was invited to stage a major print exhibition at Nikon's prestigious Nikon House Gallery in Manhattan last December. Featuring work by the world's top U/W photographers, including Rick Frehsee, Stephen Frink, Bradley Graham, Lynn Funkhauser, Robert Holland, Neil McDaniel, Chris and Donna McLaughlin, Carl Roessler, Jerry Schnabel, Marty Snyderman and Susan Swygert, the exhibit was viewed by an average of 2,000 people daily.



More than 60 prints were included in the exhibition. All color enlargements were custom printed by Scuba Chrome from original 35mm slides. Destinations covered by the WaterHouse contributors included the Florida Keys, Caribbean, Philippines, Red Sea, Australia, the Maldives, Micronesia and Truk.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RECREATIONAL DIVING

PADI now offers the *Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving*, a new concept in diver references. Neither a textbook nor a rehash of manuals and handbooks written for military/commercial divers, the *Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving* is written specifically for the needs and interests of recreational divers.



The book utilizes an enjoyable reading style and profuse illustrations to make even the most complex subjects easy to understand. Focusing on five high interest areas—physics, physiology, equipment, aquatic realm and special activities—the *Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving* is the combined effort of more than a dozen writers and 18 technical reviewers, treating each subject with up-to-date information written and reviewed by experts. It has 26 pages of color photographs, plus hundreds of black and white photographs and illustrations.

The encyclopedia is available at PADI Training Facilities.

HARBOUR TOWNE ARTIFICIAL REEF

The 95 foot steel sailing vessel *Pride* was recently sunk offshore Fort Lauderdale to form the Harbour Towne Artificial Reef. All of the costs of this project were donated by Harbour Towne Marina of Dania. The 40 year old vessel was cleaned of potential pollutants by workers at Harbour Towne and was certified by the Coast Guard for sinking.

The *Pride* was deployed immediately south of the popular wreck *Jay Scutti*, a 100 foot tugboat sunk in September of 1986. Positioned in 70 feet of water offshore Oakland Park Boulevard, the *Pride* will become a haven for marine life.

Audie Morton, dockmaster at Harbour Towne, said "Rumor has it that Tugboat Annie's Restaurant hid treasure aboard that, if found, can be redeemed at Tugboat Annie's." The approximate Loran C coordinates are 14265.2 and 62106.3.

For further information regarding the Broward County Artificial Reef Program, contact the Erosion Prevention District at (305) 765-4013.

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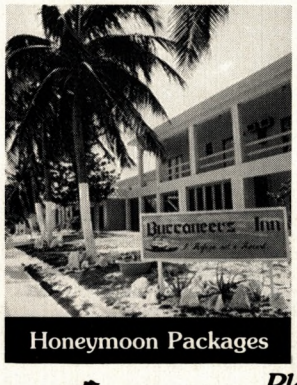
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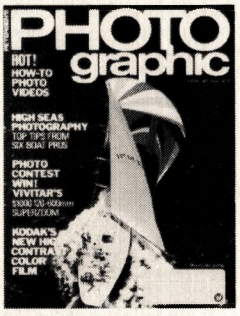
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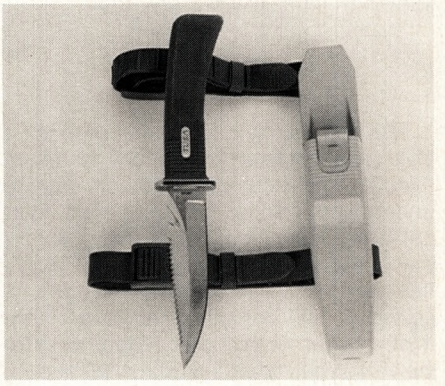
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SD 3/88

TABATA'S ONE TOUCH LIBERATOR KNIFE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

Just a few years ago, most dive knives were *big*. My first one was almost as long as my lower leg and it wasn't even the largest one on the market. It had a rather flimsy plastic sheath that deteriorated within the first year of use and which I was never able to replace. The straps had no buckle holes that came close to fitting my leg. The ones I punched in the strap tore when used. And, of course, there was the hassle of trying to wrestle the knife in and out of its keeper and sheath.



Luckily, dive knives have changed a great deal in the past few years. Today they are compact and streamlined. They look good, too. The Tabata Liberator is all those things plus it has a special sheath that allows the insertion and release of the knife with one touch as well as a special buckle that allows strap adjustments with one touch.

Let's look at the knife first. From butt to tip it measures 8¾ inches. The blade is just 4¼ inches in length and is available with either a pointed tip or—new for '88—one that is blunt. One edge is plain, the other is serrated and has a line cutter. The handle matches the sheath straps (gray) and is a nonslippery, high grade synthetic rubber that though hard, feels velvety to the touch. There is an oval insert on both sides that bears the letters TUSA and matches the sheath color.

The Liberator sheath is very interesting. Made of durable ABS plastic, it comes in yellow, pink, lavender, cobalt blue, black and emerald. There is a small slit at the bottom for water drainage. The knife slips into the sheath easily and is locked in place by a stainless steel spring inside. To release the knife simply grasp the handle and pull up while depressing the lock with your thumb. This is incredibly quick and easy.

The sheath straps are the same high

grade synthetic rubber as the knife handle. Just pulling on the end of the strap tightens it. To loosen, press on the ridges on the buckle and pull. The strap has numerous ridges on it that hold it in place in the buckle—it will fit any size arm or leg from large to small. The buckle has a minimum of metal—one tiny stainless steel pin—to minimize corrosion.



The Tabata "one touch" knife liberates its users from hassle by allowing one touch strap adjustments and one touch releases from its sheath—which is why it's called the Liberator. It sells for $52. You can see it for yourself at your nearest Tabata dealer.

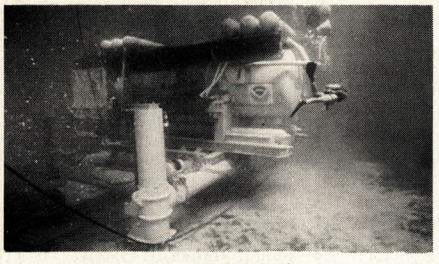
NOAA HABITAT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has launched the most advanced habitat ever developed for research under the sea. Named Aquarius, the state-of-the-art, 81 ton habitat, which can sustain six scientists at a time indefinitely, has been placed on the seafloor off St. Croix, USVI.

For the next two years, the huge, movable undersea research station missions will include fisheries studies, physical oceanography, marine engineering research and studies of the cause of coral bleaching in the Caribbean.

Aquarius makes it possible for scientists to live and work on the ocean floor for a virtually unlimited time, allowing a nine hour day of research before returning to the habitat. In contrast, scuba divers working at the Aquarius' present 50 foot depth would be able to remain on the bottom only 70 minutes.

The 43 x 12 x 16.5 foot station succeeds NOAA's smaller, less sophisticated Hydrolab, which accomplished nearly 200 missions between 1966 and 1985. It was retired and presented to the Smithsonian Institution.



Aquarius is divided into three compartments—a wet porch, main lock and entrance lock. The main chamber houses the sleeping area, laboratory equipment, computers, environmental conditioning and a modern galley. From the living compartment, scientists can view sea life through observation ports. A video system allows monitoring of seabottom and surface conditions.

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SeaQuest BCs

BY JIM WALKER



ADV S1



ADVi S4

photos/Bonnie J. Cardone



ADV S2

SeaQuest has added a line of single bag buoyancy compensators. All models in the line share the following:

(1) No inner bladder—Since there is only a single outer bag, there is no possibility of air leaks resulting from breakdown or puncturing of a thin inner bag. Having only an outer bag also facilitates air transfer within the BC and rinsing with fresh water.

(2) Polylaminate bonding—This allows better adhesion of sealed materials, provides for longer BC life and superior air holding capability.

(3) Contoured shape—The buoyancy chambers wrap around the diver's body comfortably, maintaining a low profile, and are held in correct position by a double adjusting chest strap. The chambers are "quilted" to hold this low profile and have durable strain relief reinforcements. The buoyancy is positioned low to hold the diver high out of the water during surface swimming.

(4) Quick release/adjustable shoulder straps—These enable the BC to be custom fit to any body build. This also allows easy donning/doffing of the BC.

(5) Hose retainers—A Velcro closing retainer is placed above the left pocket and secures the gauge console conven-

(Continued on Page 180)

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Designed for the Nikonos III, IV or V, the Aquaflash 28 comes with a mounting tray, arm and interchangeable sync cord, 2-year limited warranty.

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Master extension tube set w/3 tubes and 6 framers for 28mm UWN (1:1.8, 1:2.75) and 35mm UWN (2:1,1:1, 1:2, 1:3)	154.00
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Package 1D: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Marine Eye (28mm) adapter & Close Eye V w/framer (1:5) 579.00**

Package 2A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mmf2.5 UWN, Aqua F-III TTL (w/arm, tray & sync cord),dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 788.00**

Package 3A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-rings) & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 879.00**

Package 3B: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-rings), Helix basic extension tube set & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 955.00**

Package 4A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings), dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 945.00**

Package 4C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28TTL(w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) MarineEye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V w/framer (1:5), dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam . 1045.00**

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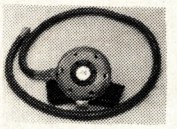
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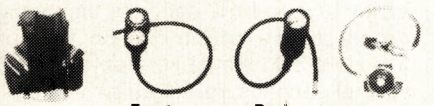
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Super Special 21



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Super Special Three



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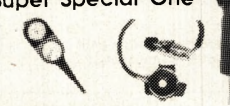
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Total package-Jacket, Console, Regulator

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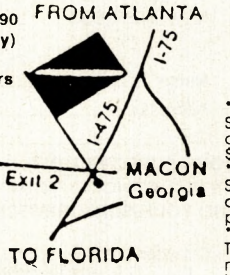
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VIDEO COURSE

(Continued from Page 58)

ray sequence, Mike (who had bait) and the ray swam behind a large coral head and disappeared. The coral head was adorned with hundreds of small yellow fish. Jim panned with Mike and the ray as they approached the coral head, then slowly stopped the pan with the camera aimed steadily at the fish on the coral head. He held the camera on the fish for several seconds so the editor could end the scene at any time.



Cathy Church lies on her back, holding her breath so as not to disturb the arrowcrab.

Because we had about 20 minutes of "middle" to edit, the MS and CU shots weren't repeated. However, we shot the beginning and ending scenes three times each because this was important to establish and resolve the action.

SUMMARY

* Develop a structured story line that is within your capabilities. If in doubt, simplify. Making a storyboard will help.
* Define roles and responsibilities if several people are involved with your U/W video movie.
* Learn the dive schedule and make a daily list of the sites and the features of each site.
* Give camerapersons and actors/models specific instructions. Rehearse by walking through scenes on deck.
* Don't go underwater without a shot list—otherwise someone will forget what to do.
* Shoot important scenes several times—especially beginnings and endings of sequences.
* Remember the incidental shots for cut-ins and cut-aways.

REMEMBER THE INCIDENTALS

Shoot some CU shots of the different actor's faces looking left and right and up and down. The editor can use these incidental shots as cut-ins to edit into long scenes. Also, take some shots of bubbles rising or fish peering around seafans. These can be used as cut-aways to add variety. Remember: The greater the variety of shots the editor has to work with, the more interesting the finished video.

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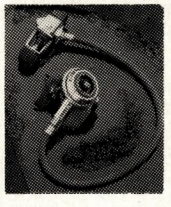
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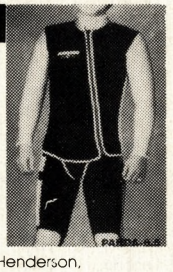
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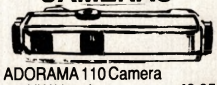
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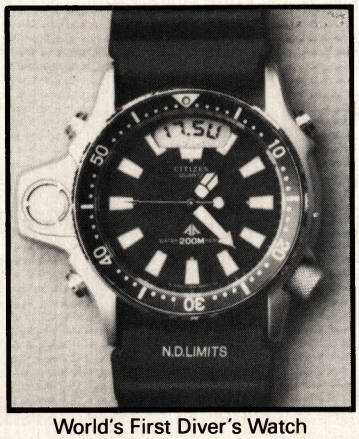
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MCKENNEY VIDEO COURSES



Last September the Jack McKenney Underwater Video Course was launched at the Norine Rouse Scuba club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Ten students took the five day course, which covered equipment, videography and lighting techniques, story development, storyboarding, logging and editing, plus other important elements of pre-production, production and post-production.

This year McKenney has refined and upgraded his Florida course, as well as adding a one day seminar in Chicago and video adventure courses to Palau and New Guinea.

McKenney, whose credits include working for Captain Cousteau as a cameraman in the Falkland Islands shooting *Waters of the Wind*; saturation diving as the lead cameraman for the late Peter Gimbel's *Andrea Doria* film; and producing more than 20 of his own films, has acquired a wealth of production experience during his 35 year career. He taught one of the first underwater photography courses back in the early '70s when he was editor of SKIN DIVER Magazine.

The first McKenney Florida course will be conducted at the Norine Rouse Scuba Club May 2-7. The cost will include diving, tanks and weights, but will not include travel or accommodations, which can be arranged through the Norine Rouse Scuba Club. Students must have their own video camera/recorders and underwater housings, but a few Hypertech video systems will be available for rent. The class is limited to ten people.

For more information contact Norine Rouse Scuba Club, 4708 North Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33407; (305) 844-2466.

On Sunday, March 27, McKenney will conduct a one day seminar at Visions of the Sea '88, at the Oak Brook Regency in Oak Brook, IL. Tickets are available at Underseas Scuba Center, 611 North Addison Road, Villa Park, IL 60181; (312) 833-8383.

Ten day video trips will be conducted to Palau in June and New Guinea in November. For more information on these, contact Poseidon Ventures Tours, 359 San Miguel Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660; (714) 644-5344.

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Use and operation of life support equipment should not be undertaken without qualified and proper instructions in their use. This ad does not imply the sale of life support equipment through the mail

WRECK FACTS

(Continued from Page 30)

According to the bill, the Maryland Historical Trust will consist of 15 trustees who will have power to rule over submerged sites. The trust will act as arbiter of the division of anything recovered from a wreck. You cannot touch or remove anything from a "historical" site without a permit, for which a fee will be charged. There are eight restrictions for issuing permits, including a performance bond.

The trust can issue summons for arrests, confiscate objects removed from the bottom as well as the divers' vessel, equipment and supplies, which automatically become property of the trust! Violators convicted of removing submerged property will be subject to a $1,000 fine or 30 days in jail! Penalties for violating a permit will be a $10,000 fine or one year in jail!

Clubs, charter boat owners and everybody interested in continuing to dive wrecks in Maryland waters should organize immediately (if you haven't done so already). Also, write and call your Maryland state legislators. If this bill goes through, you can forget about retrieving anything from wrecks in Maryland waters, regardless of the age of the vessel.

For a copy of the draft of Proposed Legislation for the Protection of Underwater Archaeological Resources in Maryland Waters, write to Richard Hughes, Maryland Historical Trust, 1517 Ritchie Highway, Suite L1, Arnold, MD 21012 or call (301) 757-9000.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Great Lakes divers might be interested in a new publication, Lake Superior News Letter, by James R. Marshall. Published quarterly, it is an additional publication of Lake Superior Magazine. Its purpose is to disseminate current and historical data relating to shipwrecks, archaeology, history, diving and human interest, all in more detail than is possible in the regular magazine. The first newsletter recounted the mystery of the steamer *Benjamin Noble*, missing since 1914 and searched for throughout the years. A reward of $1,000 was offered for the discovery of this mystery ship lost in one of the wildest spring gales ever to hit the lake. For a sample copy and more information on Marshall's newsletter, write to Lake Superior Newsletter, 100 Waterfront Plaza, 325 Lake Avenue South, Duluth, MN 55802.

Whatever happened to Burt Webber, the famous salvor who discovered the treasure laden Spanish galleon, *Conception*? If you find out, let me know. Meanwhile, I've found another Bert Webber, one whose book you might be interested in reading. *Silent Siege—Japanese Attacks Against North America in World*

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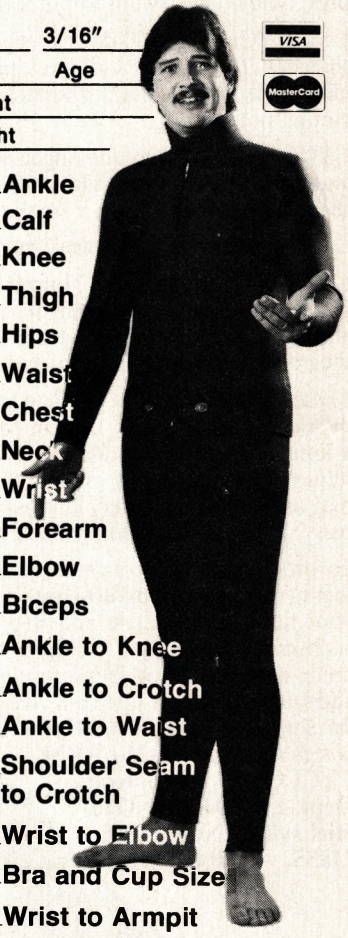
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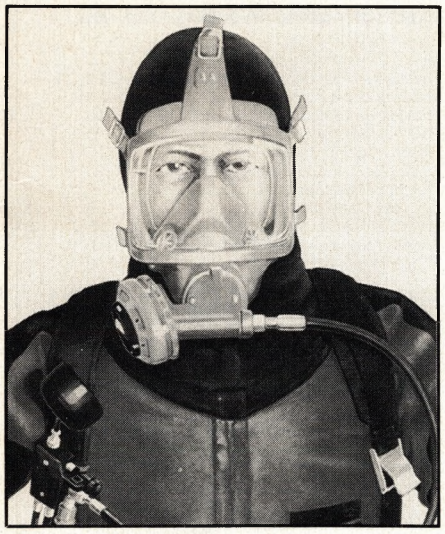
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War II, is a 400 page paperback with more than 350 black and white photos. Webber assures readers there is no evidence of Japanese wrecks off the coasts of Oregon, Washington or California. *Silent Siege* depicts everything about Japanese naval activity off the West Coast, including a chapter, Aleutian Headache, that describes Japanese sources of information and the strategic importance of the Aleutian Islands during the war. For further details, including price and postage, contact Bert Webber, P.O. Box 11, Medford, OR 97501.

Safe diving to all. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing to Ellsworth Boyd, 1120 Bernoudy Rd., White Hall, MD 21161.

AGA MASK/NAVY TESTS

The Navy Experimental Diving Unit Report, No. 8-87, an Evaluation of Commercially Available Open Circuit Scuba Regulators, recently concluded that the AGA full facemask, distributed by Viking America, Inc., exceeds the new U.S. Navy standards for diving to 198 feet of seawater. Only eight breathing systems out of



51 passed the new standard. Two of them were the AGA, arranged as a full facemask and as a scuba regulator.

The results of cold water tests by the navy concluded the AGA offered "superior performance" under conditions that lead other regulators to malfunction. Only five regulators were rated as "superior" by the navy. Three of the others were Poseidon regulators, also distributed by Viking America, Inc.

For more information on the AGA full facemask contact Viking America, Inc., 30700 Solon Industrial Parkway, Solon, Ohio 44139; (216) 349-1319.

NORTHWEST PHONE NUMBER

The 800 phone number listed for Northwest Airlines in SKIN DIVER Magazine's February 1988 Cayman section has been changed. The new phone number is (800) 225-2525.

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• Digital display with dual time
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- ★ Rubber big bore snorkel

Retail $100.00

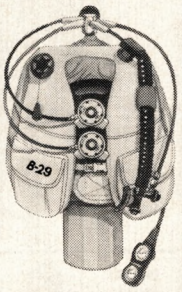
Sale $50.00

PACKAGE 6M

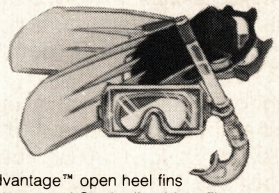
- ★ U.S.TECH B-29 Jacket
- ★ Explorer Regulator
- ★ U.S.TECH Console
- ★ U.S.TECH Sport Octopus
- ★ 80. 65, or 50 K tank
- ★ Tank boot
- ★ Color coordinated in blue or black
- ★ Full Warranty

Retail $1065.00

Sale $519.95



PACKAGE 3M



- ★ Advantage™ open heel fins W/ vent and Synthraline blade™
- ★ Silicone Triview Mask W/ double seal
- ★ Silicone big bore snorkel

Retail $140.00

Sale $69.95



FARMER JOHN

Royal Farmer John with step in jacket, full over edging, contrasting color stripe. 1/4" thick, plush lined. Dark blue with pink, turquoise, or red stripe.
Retail $360.00

Sale $209.95

Wet Suit Accessories

Cold water hood	$29.95
Molded sole boots	29.95
Five fingered gloves	24.95
Wet suit shampoo	4.95
Wet suit hanger	14.95
Zipper cleaner/lube	3.95

SHORTY SUIT

Pisces step in shorty, plush lined 1/8" thick. Dark blue with colored fashion stripes.
Retail $180.00

Sale $97.50



Open heel vented fins	$19.95
Graphite Open heel vented fins (M-XL)	29.95
Waterlung X-3 regulator	79.95
Pressure gauge with hose	36.00
Poseidon Cyklon 300 regulator	159.95
DAN First Aid Book - waterproof	9.95
4 Reale Concepcion coin	199.95
Solid Gold 14 Karat diver	59.95
Lanyard with slide lock	4.95
Gerber BMF knife	129.95
Tekna Xena light	49.95
3 lb weight mold	12.50
H.D. gear bag - 15 X 30"	26.95

DIVER'S WATCH

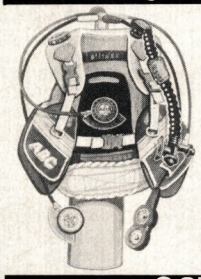


Seiko's DEO95 is a diver's automatic watch tested to 500 feet! Sweep second hand, day, date. Tropic strap. Retail $215.00

Sale $172.00

SharpEye Color Filter	49.95
Moist-U-Aider air moisturizer	44.95
The Nikonos Handbook - Church	19.95
Treasure of the Atocha	24.95
Nikonos Use Video Tape	24.95
Four piece travel spear	49.95
Queen Angel or Shark T-shirt	8.95
Molded sole wet suit boots W/ zipper	39.95
Weight belt W/18 pounds	26.95
Stainless belt slides - pair	1.50
Diver Flag decal - 2 1/2 X 2 3/4"	1.95
Sony Video Housing	800.00
Sony Video Light	400.00

PACKAGE 4M

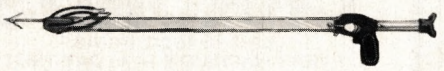


- ★ U.S.TECH Advanced BCD
- ★ Vanguard Pro Regulator
- ★ U.S.TECH Console w/ depth, PSI, Temp.
- ★ Vanguard Pro Octopus
- ★ 80. 65, or 50 K tank
- ★ Tank boot
- ★ Color coordinated in red, pink, turquoise
- ★ Full Warranty

Retail $1415.00

Sale $739.95

SPEAR GUN SPECIALS



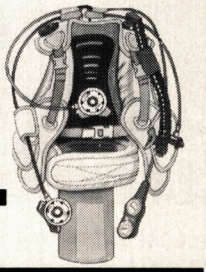
14" long single sling	$25.00
20" long single sling	30.00
44" long pro. two sling	84.95
50" long pneumatic pro.	149.95
62" long three sling pro.	134.95

PACKAGE 7M

- ★ Sea Systems Adv. BCD
- ★ Waterlung X2 Regulator
- ★ U.S.TECH Console
- ★ Waterlung Octopus
- ★ 80. 65, or 50 K tank
- ★ Tank boot
- ★ Full Warranty

Retail $970.00

Sale $549.95



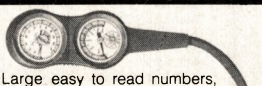
OCTOPUS



By U.S.TECH - Bright yellow cover, 36" long hose, lightweight.
Retail $105.00

Sale $59.95

DOUBLE CONSOLE



By U.S.TECH - Large easy to read numbers, luminescent face, depth, pressure. Color coded feet and PSI.
Retail $180.00

Sale $89.95

SUPER GEAR BAG



Tekna's back pack style bag is an ample 20" X 11" X 24" - 6020 CUBIC INCHES! Five separate compartments - two are padded! Will fit at least one full set of gear.
Retail $89.95

Sale $76.95

These items can be sent direct to your door with just a phone call! Outside Illinois call (800) 621-6019, in Illinois (312) 763-1626. Ask for the direct sales department. Have your Master Card, Visa, Discover Card, American Express, or Optima card ready. **By mail,** send your order and charge card number and expiration date or cashiers check, money order or certified check (U.S.Funds) to our Chicago address. Remember to give your color selection and needed sizes - foot for fins, and height, weight, chest and waist for packages and wet suits. **Remember that only certified divers should use SCUBA equipment.**

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6674 N. Northwest Hwy.
Chicago, IL 60631
(312) 763-1626

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Palatine, IL 60067
(312) 358-3848

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Yorktown Mall
Lombard, IL 60148
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SKIN DIVER'S

TRAVEL TIPS

Researching A Dive Distination

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

Selection of a dive vacation usually starts with the question, "Where do I want to go?" This may not be easily answered, particularly if you have never been on such a vacation. The magazines and newspapers are filled with a bewildering array of travel ads extolling the virtues of hundreds of resorts. How can you possibly make an intelligent choice?

The best way to start is to *research* those destinations that seem most appealing. You will find dozens of vacation articles and reports on the pages of SKIN DIVER. At least 12 times a year SDM also publishes comprehensive special supplements on major domestic and overseas dive destinations such as the Bahamas, Caymans, Cozumel, Florida Keys, Hawaii and so on.

Pick up copies of the most current magazines and review back issues at your local library, dive store or from a friend's collection. SKIN DIVER publishes an index of all articles in the December issue each year. From this you can locate articles on those destinations that interest you the most.

In many cases, these travel articles have been reprinted by the resort or island involved. You can obtain a copy by contacting the resort or tourist board. Another possible source is a specialty travel agency known to book dive trips to that particular resort area. This type of agency frequently advertises in the pages of SKIN DIVER.

But, suppose you do not have a specific resort or island in mind? In this case you may be interested in knowing where other divers go on their dive vacations and how the readers of SDM rank them.

Every two years SKIN DIVER polls its readers to learn where they went on their vacations. The 1987 Subscriber Survey indicates the following ranking of destinations for various parts of the world and the percentage of SDM readers who have traveled there.

According to the survey, 75.4 percent of all SKIN DIVER readers took a domestic dive trip outside their area in the previous 12 months. Here is where they went:

Continental U.S.	% of Divers
1) Florida Keys	37.5
2) Florida East Coast	29.3
3) Florida Springs	26.4
4) Florida West Coast	22.1
5) California Coast	17.5
6) Great Lakes	13.3
7) Florida Panhandle	12.8
8) Middle Atlantic	10.9
9) Gulf Coast States	10.4

The survey also indicated that 60.6 percent of all SKIN DIVER readers traveled outside the continental U.S. on dive trips. Here is a listing of the popular destinations in the Bahamas and Caribbean:

Bahamas/Caribbean	% of Divers
1) Bahamas	33.7
2) Cayman Islands	31.4
3) Cozumel Island, Mexico	28.5
4) Bonaire	13.4
5) U.S. Virgin Islands	13.2
6) Cancun, Mexico	11.2
7) Jamaica	8.4
8) British Virgin Islands	6.9
9) Belize, Central America	5.3
10) Bay Islands, Honduras	5.3
11) Turks & Caicos	2.3
12) Curacao	1.5

The following is a listing of the most popular Pacific dive destinations for the same SKIN DIVER overseas travelers.

Pacific	% of Divers
1) Hawaiian Islands	21.8
2) Baja California, Mexico	5.8
3) Australia	2.8
4) Okinawa, Japan	1.7
5) Tahiti	1.7
6) Micronesia	1.5
7) Fiji Islands	1.2
8) New Zealand	0.8
9) Philippines	0.7

While these rankings may not provide information on a specific resort, they do provide clues as to where divers have been heading on their vacations. Divers shopping for a vacation generally select a destination first and then select a specific resort, boat or vacation package.

Once you have decided on a destination, the next step is to obtain all available information on dive vacation packages and prices. Again, the best approach is through the pages of SKIN DIVER. Each issue contains more than 100 travel advertisements. Write for brochures and prices or use SDM's Reader Service Card. Just circle the number on the card that matches the number under the ad. Allow four to six weeks for a response.

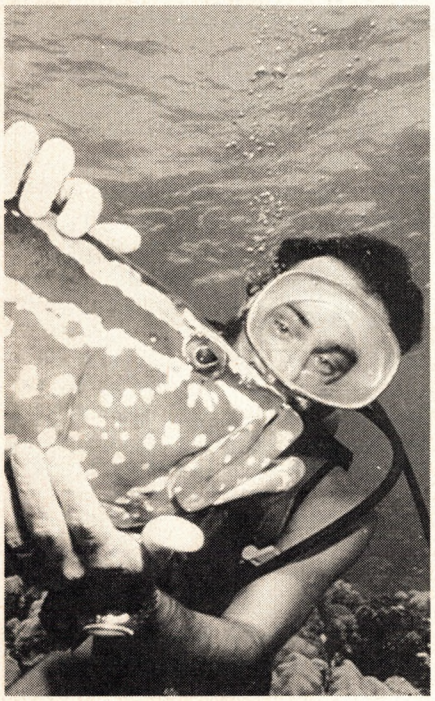
To obtain information quickly, make a telephone request. Many travel ads contain toll free 800 numbers. You can call these and obtain basic prices and information over the phone and more detailed information by mail in a week or so.

Still another major source of research material is the specialty travel agents who book dive trips to the destination you have in mind. You can telephone or write to them. The tourist boards of many resort islands are happy to furnish maps, hotel directories and other helpful information upon request.

Once you have obtained all this material, try to organize it by resort or by destination if you have more than one in mind. Take your time going over the material. At first the volume of brochures and articles may seem overwhelming and you may have to reread some of it. The big trick is to figure out what items have been omitted from these glowing brochures.

For example, an island hotel that does not have air-conditioning rarely admits it.

(Continued on Page 180)



A diver pets a grouper. Such unique experiences are made possible through travel to various overseas dive destinations.

SUBATEC S50 STROBE



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

Well known for its unusual photo products, Subatec, of Lausanne, Switzerland has just introduced a revolutionary underwater flash. It is a mini strobe with powerful output and wide angle of coverage. And, while every other strobe manufacturer is putting out plastic models, this one has a sturdy metal case. Yet, despite its outstanding quality and performance, the new Subatec S50 is very reasonably priced.

DESIGN

The development of the S50 strobe is the result of Subatec's objective of solving several common problems facing today's underwater photographer. First, it wanted to offer an electronic flash that would be compact, lightweight and easy to operate. Second, it wanted a flash that would prove ample lighting coverage for all Nikonos lenses, including the 20 and 15mm ultra wides. It wanted to achieve this coverage without the aid of wide angle diffusers and so there would be no reduction in light output. Third, Subatech wanted to produce a powerful wide angle strobe that would be priced far lower than the "big guns" currently being sold. The S50 achieves all three of these basic objectives and brings a few new twists to U/W strobe design.

CONSTRUCTION

The Subatec S50 looks like a high quality product. The housing is one piece of cast aluminum with a corrosion proof black anodized finish. Each housing is pressure tested to a depth of 500 feet. The outside of the S50 measures 3.5 inches in diameter and 3.9 inches long. It is compact enough to fit into small photo carrying cases for convenient travel. It weighs just 1 pound, 11 ounces out of the water. The S50 strobe has neutral buoyancy in seawater and has slightly negative buoyancy in fresh water.

The flash tube is a straight xenon type with a large 3.25 inch shiny reflector. It is this specially designed reflector that gives the S50 both its wide angle of coverage and powerful output. The front lens of the strobe is a dome shaped acrylic port sealed with a press-fit O-ring gasket.

A rotary switch with an O-ring sealed shaft allows the strobe to be turned on/off. A green ready light positioned just above the switch indicates when the strobe is ready to fire.

The sync cord is a standard six foot coil cord with a Nikonos III type connector. The S50 will operate with the Nikonos III, IV or V models. A metric thread stud protrudes from the underside of the strobe case and allows quick mounting on Subatec's articulated flash arm and camera bracket. All S50 components are Swiss made and assembled under high quality control conditions.

PERFORMANCE

Built for simplicity and economy, the S50 strobe has just one power. There is only one switch with on and off positions. It is a manual strobe, which means it can be used with the Nikonos V in the manual exposure mode only.

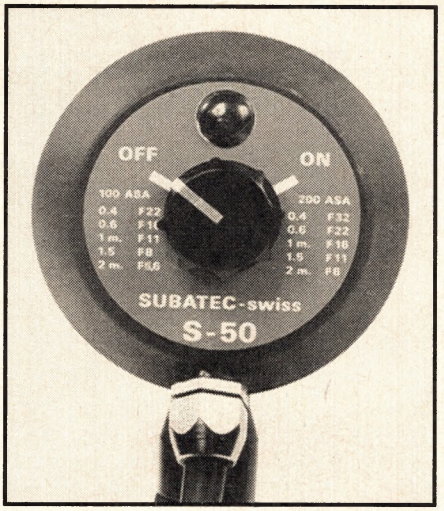
Where the S50 strobe excels is in flash angle coverage. It will cover a full 96 degrees, which is more than adequate for use with the Nikonos 15mm wide angle lens, the 17mm Sea & Sea lens or the Subawider II wide angle adapter. There is no need for a beam spreader or diffuser.

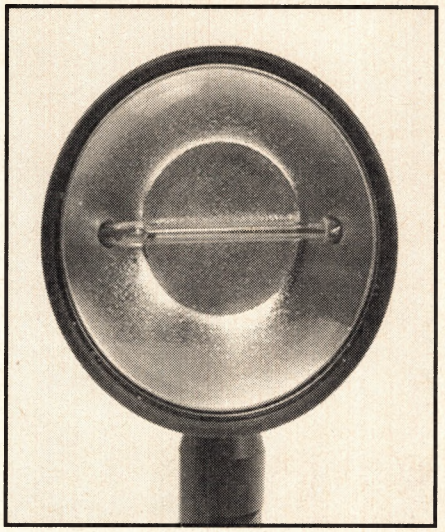
The Subatec S50 also excels in power output. This fiesty little strobe can put out sufficient power to attain an exposure of f/11 at three feet with ISO 100 film. At six feet you still have a respectable f/5.6 exposure with the same film.

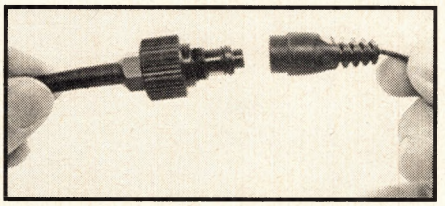
The S50 strobe is powered by four AA rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries. These cells help account for the strobe's compact size and light weight. The S50 will recycle in just six seconds and will deliver 70 flashes on a full charge. The color temperature of the S50 is 5,000° Kelvin. This is fairly warm when compared to the daylight average of 5,500° Kelvin. The result is nice warm skin tones since the strobe is compensating for the water's blue color filtration.



Subatec's S50 is a lightweight, compact strobe that offers both a powerful flash and wide angle coverage. It has a 3.25 inch diameter shiny reflector, dome shaped acrylic lens and one simple on/off switch.







To charge the S50, simply hook the charger plug into the Nikonos III connector on the sync cord. There is no through-hull fitting, the strobe is completely sealed.



The S50 is only 3.5 inches in diameter and 3.9 inches long and has a one piece, cast aluminum housing with a black anodized finish. It weighs 1 pound, 11 ounces.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the S50 is that batteries are charged through the flash sync cord. That's right, you hook the charger to the Nikonos III connector on the sync cord. This approach eliminates any through-hull fitting on the strobe case—it is a completely sealed unit—and the risk of flooding. It takes approximately 10 hours for a full charge.

Another really nice feature is Subatec's special slave trigger sensor, which also screws onto the Nikonos III connector of the sync cord. This nifty accessory allows the S50 strobe to be used as an independent slave.

CONCLUSION

Subatec's S50 is indeed a radical departure in underwater strobe design, but there are some obvious trade-offs. Subatec has achieved the compact size and weight of the strobe by reducing battery size. The smaller AA batteries are also less costly, thus keeping the price reasonable.

Subatec has kept the price of its S50 competitive by simplifying the electronics. It is a one power, manual flash unit. Most professional or serious minded underwater photographers prefer this simplified design so there is really no problem. However, if you are interested in automatic flash exposure, this is not the strobe for you.

Under normal strobe design standards, the four AA rechargeable batteries would be no problem, but Subatec has incorporated two more important features into the S50—wide angle coverage and high power output. Both features require high battery energy. The result is a limited number of flashes and this is probably the S50's most crucial trade-off. The S50 is rated for a maximum of 70 flashes, provided not too much energy is wasted with the strobe in "idle" mode. This amounts to a little less than two rolls of 36 exposure film. It then takes 10 hours to charge the batteries. If you can be satisfied with this limited number of flashes, then the S50's other features make it one of the most desirable U/W strobes on the market today. It is very appealing to divers who plan to travel overseas and have to pack light. It will perform beautifully through two dives per day.

At a suggested retail price of $495, the Subatec S50 is a terrific buy for what it will do. The articulated flash arm and camera bracket sells for $165. The total Subatec package is only $660.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about the S50 strobe and other Subatec photo products, contact Akimbo, Inc., Underwater Photographic Equipment, 1435 Estrella Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 or telephone (805) 682-7161.

SUBATEC S50 STROBE

Power output	100 watt/seconds
Power source	4 AA nickel cadmium rechargeable batteries
Power modes	Full power only
Number of flashes	70
Recycle time	6 seconds
Ready light	Green LED/magnifier port
Charging time	10 hours
Angle of coverage	96 degrees
Flash tube	Straight
Color temperature	5,000° Kelvin
Flash modes	Manual only
Sync cord	Nikonos III type/non-TTL Will fit Nikonos IV and V
Depth	Tested to 500 feet
Weight	27 ounces
Flash arm	2 types available Telescoping straight arm 3 jointed articulated arm
Dimensions	3.5 x 3.9"

ProSub DX 500



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC HANAUER

Although ProSub isn't exactly a household word among divers, you may already have used one of its regulators without being aware of it. ProSub is an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) with ten years of experience producing regulators that are sold under other labels. In its Gardena, California plant ProSub manufactures both breathing systems and buoyancy devices. Four years ago the company began marketing two of its own regulators, the Maxair I and the Proair I. The Maxair I had a cylindrical, balanced second stage and was the top of the line. The Proair I, a more conventional design, was the better seller. In 1986, the ProSub brass decided to forego the premium market and concentrate instead on an inexpensive, basic regulator. Both units were discontinued in favor of the second generation ProSub DX 500.

What do you get when you buy this regulator? You get mainstream design, including a balanced piston first stage and a downstream second stage with a plastic housing. There are few bells and whistles, although the DX 500 has four low pressure ports on a swivel, along with two high pressure ports. A choice of colors is available for the cover. The entire package comes in at a $190 list price.

The first stage layout will look familiar to close observers of the regulator scene. Like many others it is based on the original flow-through, balanced piston design—introduced 22 years ago—that has become an industry standard. For the DX 500 first stage, ProSub engineers made several changes. To improve flow characteristics, they enlarged the bore and reduced the length of the stainless steel piston. A series of smaller ports was placed in the perimeter of the first stage body to allow injection of silicone grease into the ambient pressure chamber. This provides protection against environmental contamination, as well as against freezing at low temperatures. On the swivel cap, four low pressure ports are angled to reduce stress on the hoses. Two high pressure ports are on the first stage body, giving the diver a choice of either side for mounting the submersible pressure gauge and instrument console. The hefty yoke will support more than 3,500 psi, while the European version with a DIN fitting is good for 4,000 psi. Intermediate pressure is 135 psi.

The second stage is the same as that of the Proair, except the case is now made from an ultra-lightweight resin. The cover on our test model was yellow, one of five choices available. The others are blue, flamingo pink, silver and black. Orange is used for the octopus version, which also has an orange silicone mouthpiece and a longer hose.

The most unusual feature of the second stage is its lockdown purge button. On all downstream second stages, the soft low pressure poppet eventually becomes worn because of spring pressure against the valve seat during storage. Ultimately, this will cause air leakage from the second stage and require replacement of the poppet at annual overhaul time. Manufacturers have come up with all sorts of devices to keep the purge button depressed, thereby relieving stress on the poppet. The first ones were small plastic spoons or keys the owner had to set in place manually. They were often lost or ignored. Later, tabs or plungers were built into the second stage cover. ProSub has developed the most effective and simplest solution yet. By depressing and rotating the button to line it up with the arrows molded in the surrounding ring, the purge button is locked down and remains that way until it is rerotated. If you forget to release it, the freeflow

that begins as soon as the air is turned on will remind you.

Mechanically, the second stage follows general industry design for a lever-actuated, downstream valve. The diaphragm, exhaust valve and mouthpiece are all made of silicone. Surrounding the second stage case is a hefty split ring, made from a chromed brass casting. Two hex screws have to be loosened to remove it. It is used instead of a conventional thinner single ring to provide more protection for the plastic case when it is being transported in the diver's bag.

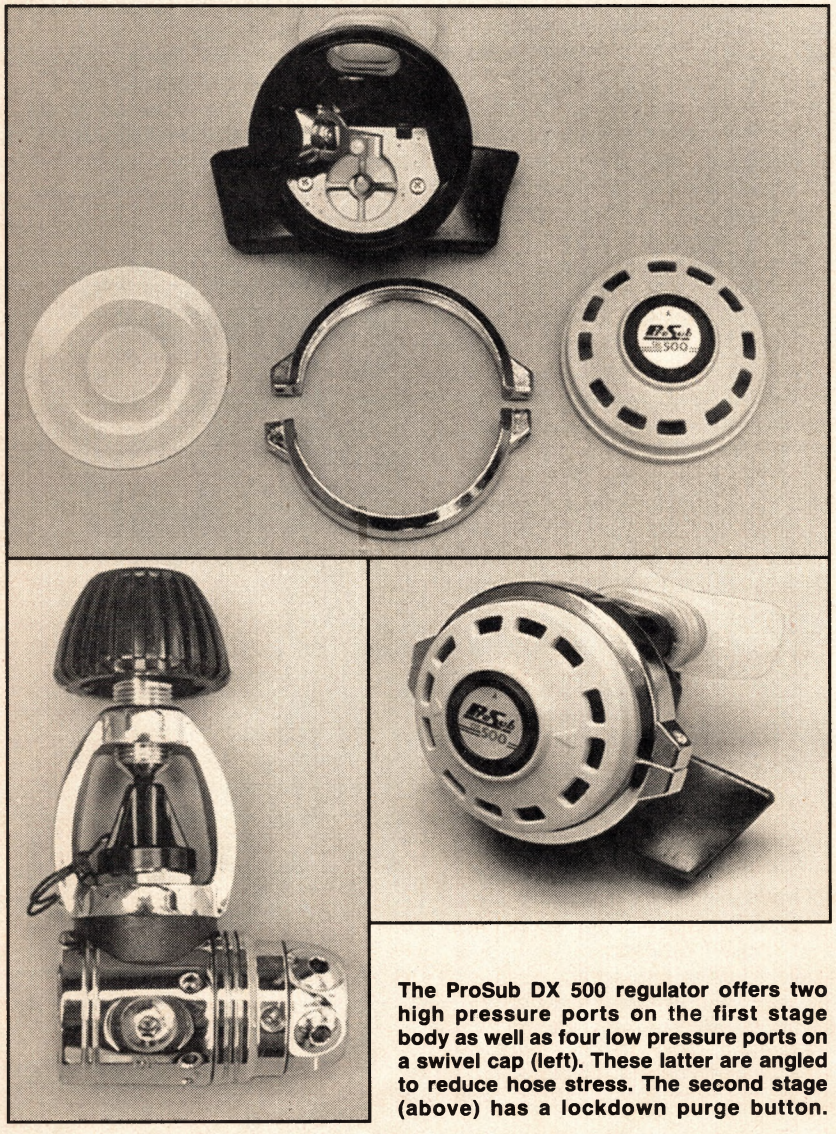
Our test procedures showed the DX 500 to be a steady performer with few surprises. Breathing effort remained the same in most positions. There was a slight freeflow when I descended head down, a common characteristic in most regulators. Breathing effort increased significantly when on I was on my back looking up, but that, too, is typical of conventional second stages. A pleasant surprise was the absence of water leakage in this position.

Clearing the second stage of intentionally induced water required just a small puff of air. Pushing the purge button supplied enough to do the job automatically, without wasting any. Slowly sipping air provided a smooth, even flow, with a normal cracking effort (the amount of suction needed to start the flow). At a depth of 80 feet, the DX 500 provided enough air for hard swimming with a heavy breathing rate, although effort was greater than my comparison regulator, a premium-priced model. When tank pressure reached 300 psi, breathing effort increased noticeably.

The bite tabs on the silicone mouthpiece of the DX 500 are very thin. This keeps the diver's front teeth close together, creating a mechanical obstruction to airflow and increasing turbulence. If this were my regulator, I would replace the mouthpiece with one that has thicker bite tabs. That would be an easy, low cost method of improving breathing performance.

There are lots of regulators on the market that are similar to the ProSub. To make an intelligent choice, a diver should compare the features of each one. What does the DX 500 have going for it? It is made in the USA, by a company with ten years' experience in this field—one that concentrates only on regulators, buoyancy compensators and instruments. Its uncomplicated, basic design should provide reliability and easy service. The purge button lockdown device is certainly a mark in its favor. A one owner, limited lifetime guarantee is offered, as long as the mandatory annual service is performed. For a diver on a limited budget, or one just getting started, ProSub's list price of $190 represents an attractive option.

For more information contact ProSub at 341 East Alondra Boulevard, Gardena, California 90248.



The ProSub DX 500 regulator offers two high pressure ports on the first stage body as well as four low pressure ports on a swivel cap (left). These latter are angled to reduce hose stress. The second stage (above) has a lockdown purge button.

PROSUB DX 500

First stage:
- Type.....Balanced, flow-through piston
- Maximum pressure 3,500 psi
- Materials Chrome plated brass body
 Stainless steel piston
- High pressure ports Two, 7/16"
- Low pressure ports.....Four, 3/8" on swivel end cap
- Intermediate pressure.....135 psi
- Environmental protection.....Standard, silicone injection ports

Hose length 26"

Second stage:
- Type Downstream, lever action
- Materials Case and cover: lightweight resin
 Diaphragm, exhaust valve and mouthpiece: silicone
 Valve seat: neoprene
- Color Yellow, blue, black, silver, flamingo pink, orange (octopus)
- Special feature.Rotating lockdown purge button

Warranty ..One-owner limited lifetime

Price.....$190

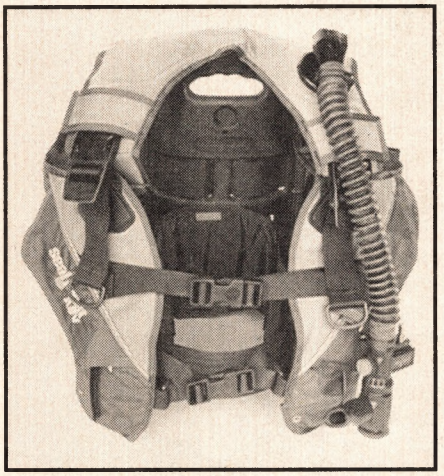
SEAQUEST BC

(Continued from Page 166)

iently at the front of the BC. Another is placed above the left shoulder strap to secure the low pressure inflator hose within easy reach.

(6) Rapid exhaust valve/low pressure inflator—This allows convenient, one handed buoyancy control.

With the above list of quality features, you might think the only thing left to separate the individual models in the single bag series would be color. However, like any good line of products, there is good—and there is better. There are four models of the single bag series: the top-of-the-line ADVi S4, ADV S3, ADV S2 and ADV S1.



ADV S3

ADVi S4: The do-everything ADVi S4 is special right at the surface. While the other BCs in the series are made of rugged 420 denier nylon pack cloth, the S4 features ultra-tough 840 denier material.

The second major difference in the S4 is its adjustable integral backpack. The lower back support of the backpack—and its attached waistband—can be raised or lowered to accommodate any length of torso, providing superior comfort. As with the other models, this integral backpack is sewn permanently to the BC. This minimizes tank movement and provides better back support.

Another feature of the S4 is a padded cummerbund (available in five sizes) that helps support the weight of a tank on the hips instead of the shoulders when the diver wears the tank topside. This waistband utilizes a suspension strap system to keep the band close to the body even when the BC is fully inflated.

The S4 has double adjusting quick release shoulder buckles that can be positioned off the diver's collar bones for better comfort. These have guarded side release press-points that allow the diver to open the buckles easily, even while wearing thick gloves.

The S4 also has dual expandable pockets with a Versapocket (for an octopus regulator) on the right. It has an additional Velcro closing hose retainer sewn on the right shoulder for organizing accessory hoses.

The S4 is available in four color combinations to complement SeaQuest wetsuits: black/emerald/blue, charcoal/black/red, fuchsia/navy or the limited editon fuchsia/teal. It retails for $440.

ADV S3: The ADV S3 has a fixed integral backpack. This is sewn in as with the ADVi S4, but is not adjustable. The S3 has double adjusting quick release shoulder buckles, padded cummerbund, dual expandable pockets with Versapocket on the right side and extra hose retainer on the right shoulder. Its color combinations complement three SeaQuest wetsuits: black/emerald/blue, gold/navy or fuchsia/navy. The ADV S3 retails for $375.

ADV S2: The ADV S2 has a fixed integral backpack, large pockets on both sides, single adjustable shoulder buckles and padded cummerbund. Its color combinations complement two SeaQuest wetsuits: charcoal/black/red or limited edition fuchsia/teal. It retails for $310.

ADV S1: The ADV S1 is the basic model, yet it still incorporates several excellent features and is ideal for tough rental use. It has an unattached backpack, webbing waistband, large pocket on the left, single adjustable shoulder buckles and a sewn in D-ring for attachment of an octopus second stage. The S1 color combinations complement one SeaQuest wetsuit—gold/navy—and it retails for $265.

The single bag series BCs have an optional D-ring kit. Extra large BCs will cost $25 more than other sizes. All the BCs come with a limited lifetime warranty on materials and workmanship, including seam integrity.

The single bag series BCs present a multitude of price, feature and color options. Your best bet would be to check them all out at your SeaQuest dealer. For the address of your nearest dealer, contact SeaQuest, Inc., P.O. Box 1397, Carlsbad, California 92009; telephone (619) 438-1101.

TRAVEL TIPS

(Continued from Page 175)

Instead, the brochure writer romantically describes the natural cooling effect of gentle trade winds or perhaps the stylish designer ceiling fans. The same technique is applied to beaches, dining facilities, dive services and so on.

You may wish to make a list of questions that are not answered by the literature, such as:

* Is the hotel room air-conditioned?
* Is the dining room air-conditioned?
* Is the hotel on the beach?
* Is the dive center on the premises?
* Does the dive boat load passengers on the hotel premises? If not, where?
* How many dives per day are included in the package?
* Are extra dives available?
* How much do extra dives cost?
* How large is the dive boat?
* What is the maximum number of divers put on the boat?
* Does the boat have shaded areas?
* Does the boat have a ladder?
* How fast does the boat cruise?
* How long does it take the boat to reach the dive sites?
* Does the dive guide go into the water with guests?
* Is there a depth limit to which guests can go?
* Can I use my dive computer for repetitive dives?

There are obviously dozens more questions that could be asked, but I think you get the idea. Formulate a list of questions that apply specifically to your needs and expectations. Then double check the literature to make sure these questions have not already been answered. A follow up phone call will help obtain the answers. If these are unobtainable or vague, be cautious.

As you can see, *research* can be a powerful tool in the selection of a happy and rewarding dive vacation. While it is no guarantee that everything will go perfectly, it does take some of the risk and guess work out of the process.



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- Virgin Islands
- Bahamas
- Channel Islands, CA
- Hawaii
- Great Lakes (specify lake)
- Florida Keys (Biscayne Bay to Big Pine Key)
- Florida Keys (Marathon to Key West)

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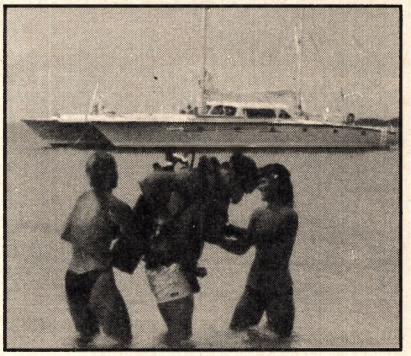


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Dv. aboard our 40' 'Scuba Safari' & 34' 'Free 'n Clear'. Full/½ day trips to Alligator Reef, Eagle Wreck & Coral Gardens. Pkgs. avail.

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CAPT. CORKY'S DIVERS' WORLD of Key Largo, Inc. 800/445-8231
P.O. Box 1663, Key Largo, FL 33037 MM 99.5 U.S. 1 past Wendy's
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CAPT. GREG'S SCUBA-DO 305/451-3446
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AMERICAN DIVING	128
ANDROS UNDERSEA ADVENTURES	103
ANTHONY'S KEY	132
AQUANAUT SCUBA CENTER	79
AQUANAUT WATERSPORTS	135
AQUANAUT WATERSPORTS	139
AQUA TREK	154
AQUA VIDEO	132
AQUA VISION SYSTEMS	30
AQUAVOX INC.	C2
ARM ENTERPRISES	134
B & H PHOTO	168
BAHAMAS TOURISM	89
BAHAMASAIR	108
BAJA EXPEDITIONS	118
BARBACHANO TRAVEL	148
BASKIN IN THE SUN	158
BAUER COMPRESSORS	50
BAYMAN BAY CLUB	150
BERRY SCUBA	174
BIMINI UNDERSEA ADVENTURES	103
BLACKBEARD'S CRUISES	101
BLUE LAGOON DIVE SHOP	141
BLUE WATER DIVERS	147
BOB SOTO'S DIVING	155
BONAIRE BEACH HOTEL	138
BONNE TERRE MINE	151
BOTTOM TIME	95
BRAC REEF BEACH RESORT	123
BRAZILIAN SCUBA	181
BROWARD COUNTY TOURISM	65
BROWNIE'S THIRD LUNG	78
BUCCANEER'S INN	163
BUDDY'S DIVE SHOP	66
BUDDY'S BEST OF THE KEYS	82
CEDAM	160
CSA/BUCCANEER HOTEL	157
CAMP NAUTILUS	181
CAP'N DON'S HABITAT	158
CAPT. SLATE'S ATLANTIS	75
CARIB INN	160
CASA DEL MAR/DEL MAR AQUATICS	145
CASA DEL MAR/TWO WORLDS	142
CAYMAN DIVING LODGE	152
CAYMAN ISLANDS TOURISM	122*
CENTRAL SKIN DIVERS	172
CHAPMAN SCHOOL	82
CHARTHOUSE MAPS	181
CHUB CAY UNDERSEA ADVENTURES	105
COASTAL SCHOOL	155
COCO VIEW RESORT	144
COLLEGE OF OCEANEERING	38
CONTINENTAL/MICRONESIA	140-141
CORAL BAY CRUISES	123
CRESSI-SUB	C3
DACOR CORPORATION	7
DACOR CORPORATION	9
DARRELL-ALLAN PRODUCTS	50
DIVE B.V.I.	157
DIVE IN AUSTRALIA	114
DIVE PARADISE	144
DIVERS ACADEMY	58
DIVERS DEN SOUTH	71
DIVERS INSTITUTE OF TECH.	43
DIVERS SUPPLY/MACON	167
DIVERS UNLIMITED	67
DIVERS WORLD OF KEY LARGO	77
DIVI BAHAMAS	91
DIVI HOLIDAYS	129
DOLPHIN CAY DIVING	146
DON FOSTER'S	122*
DREAM TEAM INC.	82
DYNASTY MARINE	157
EREBUS HOTEL	147
EPTEK	54
EYE OPENERS	157
FANTASEA EXCURSIONS	110
FISH 'N FINS	141
FLAMINGO BEACH HOTEL	126
FLAMINGO DIVERS	162
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECH.	20
FLORIDA KEYS DIVE CENTER	81
FONATUR	111
FORCE E	63
FOUR SEASONS BARRIER REEF	114
GALAPAGO INN	163
GARDEN COVE MARINA	82
GINNIE SPRINGS	66
GO DIVING	165
GUAM VISITORS BUREAU	140
HALL'S DIVING/CAREER INST'N	65
HALL'S DIVING/CAREER INST'N	76
HARVEY'S	27
HAWAII VISITOR'S BUREAU	119
HAYMAN RESORT HOTEL	115
HELIX LIMITED	166
HENDERSON AQUATICS	30
HOLIDAY INN GRAND CAYMAN	120
HURRICANE FLEET	127
HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN	140
HYDROSPACE DIVE SHOPS	76
HYDRO VISION	50
HYPERTECH	40
IKELITE	44-45
ISLAND PRINCESS	147
ISLAND PROPERTIES REPORT	154
ISLAND REEF HOTEL	147
J.W. FISHERS	58
JACK DANIEL DISTILLERY	55
JAMAICA TOURISM	113
JIM & CATHY CHURCH	181
KEENE ENGINEERING	52
KENLEE'S ISLAND DREAMS	148
KEY WEST PRO DIVE	73
KONA KAI DIVING	181
LA CEIBA BEACH HOTEL	160
LA CEIBA HOTEL	150
LADY CYANA DIVERS	72
LAHAINA DIVERS	164
LA STREGA	156
LITTLE CAYMAN DIVER	122
M.L. DALTON RESEARCH	42
MARIANAS VISITORS BUREAU	140
MARINE WILDERNESS	181
MICRONESIA AQUATICS	141
MICRONESIA DIVERS ASSOC.	140
MIKE BALL DIVE EXPEDITIONS	114
NAUI PROF'L DIVE CENTER	48
NASSAU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES	105
NAUTICA INT'L	42
NECO MARINE	141
NIKON	11-14
NIKON	49
NIKON	51
NIKON	53
NORINE ROUSE SCUBA	75
OCEAN CORPORATION	29
OCEAN DIVERS/MARINA DEL MAR	64
OCEAN EXPO	154
OCEANIC USA	19
OCEAN QUEST DIVE CENTER	79
OCEAN RAY	173
OCEAN TECH. SYSTEMS	52
OMEGA DIVING	146
ON THE RUN	173
ORCA INDUSTRIES	31
OUT ISLAND OCEANICS	106
PADI	33
PADI	46
PADI INT'L COLLEGE	47
PACIFIC DIVERS SUPPLY	169
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB	140
PACIFIC STAR HOTEL	140
PALAU PACIFIC RESORT	141
PARKWAY FABRICATORS	41
PELICAN TOURS	112
POSADA DEL SOL	153
PRO DIVE	79
PRO DIVE SCHOOL OF FLORIDA	68
PRO DIVE SCHOOL OF FLORIDA	73
PYRAMID ISLAND	161
RBM COMPANY	171
RAMADA KEYS END RESORT	81
REEF CRUISER	80
REEF EXPLORER	114
RIDING ROCK INN	97
ROBERT L. STRAIGHT	27
RUM CAY DIVING	102
SALEN-LINDBLAD CRUISING	153
SAM MC COY'S (J-MAR)	155
SAND DOLLAR BEACH CLUB	159
SCUBA JAMAICA	153
SCUBA WORLD	58
SEA-BAND	142
SEA DANCER LIVE-ABOARD	127
SEA DWELLERS	69
SEA EAGLE	46
SEA FANS VIDEO MAGAZINE	39
SEA FEVER DIVING	107
SEAQUEST	16-17
SEA SCHOOL	154
SEASPACE/HUC	121
SEASPORTS DIVE CENTER	72
SEASPORTS DIVE CENTER	81
SEAWARD HOLIDAYS	141
SEE & SEA TRAVEL	133
SEE & SEA TRAVEL	181
SHERWOOD SCUBA	23-26
SKIN DIVER WET SUITS	172
SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE	106
SPANISH WELLS HOTEL	106
SPORT EUROPA	83
SUNSET HOUSE	121
SUZUKI DIVING/TINIAN	140
TLC COMPANY	157
TABATA U.S.A.	C4
TAG-HEUER	3
THE DIVING SITE	165
THIRD TURTLE INN	146
THREE BUOYS HOUSE BOAT	162
TIARA BEACH HOTEL	128
TILDEN'S PRO DIVE SHOP	78
TIME WILL TELL	170
TRAVEL, TRAVEL	181
TREASURE DIVERS	68
TREASURE ISLAND HOTEL	110
TREASURE QUEST	164
TRIMARINE BOAT CO.	118
TRI-STATE CAMERA	165
TROPICAL CONCEPTS	161
TRUK CONTINENTAL HOTEL	141
TURNEFFE ISLAND LODGE	162
TWO WORLDS/BAHIA	156
UNEXSO	90
UNEXSO	93
UNEXSO	104
UNDER THE SUN	159
UNDERWATER ADVENTURE	126
V.I. SCUBA/SAIL	152
VALENTINE'S YACHT CLUB	181
VIKING AMERICA	58
VIRGIN ISLAND SAILING	181
WALKER'S CAY HOTEL	98
WATER'S EDGE RESORT	152
WENOKA	4
WHITE'S ELECTRONICS	40
YAP DIVERS	141

* Insert follows page indicated

I Learned About Diving From That

If You Don't Know, Ask

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG PERRINE

When the owner of a diving operation on Florida's east coast asked me if I'd like to come on one of her weekly shark dives, I had no qualms about accepting the invitation. In my days as a spearfisherman I'd had plenty of experience with sharks. After having taken up photography I was itching to get pictures of them. I *assumed* the dive would be on a 60-80 foot deep reef as are most of the dives in the area. Assume—now there's an interesting word. Notice how many times it crops up in this story.

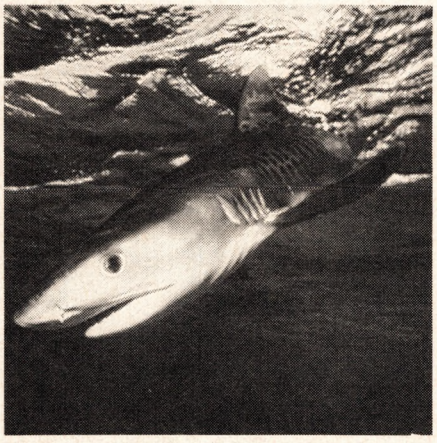
I also *assumed* that it would be a drift dive and in this I was correct. I'd done this a couple of times before so I knew how it worked, I thought. Since I wouldn't be wasting any energy kicking, I *assumed* the 2,000 psi in my 72 cubic feet tank would be plenty for whatever profile we did. I carried the tank past the fill station and put it on the boat.

On the way to the dive site the divemaster began the briefing. I squinted at the lad as he began his speech. He looked like he was fresh out of his instructor's course, and probably not a day more than 20. What could the young upstart have to say that could be of any value to someone such as myself with years of diving experience? My eyes began to open wider as he explained that this was to be a deep decompression dive—140 feet for 20 minutes with 20 minutes of decompression. My first thought was I didn't have enough air. My second thought was, "He's looking at me. Try not to look scared." In retrospect, I provided proof of a psychologist's statement I had read in a magazine article, that most people would rather die than look foolish. The divemaster continued his briefing, mandating that we were to dive as a group, rather than in buddy teams. After 10 minutes the no decompression limit would be reached and anyone who didn't have 1,000 psi should go straight up to be picked up by the boat. After that you were committed for the entire dive and decompression.

I knew I didn't have enough air for all that, but I saw no reason to cut the dive short at 10 minutes. I would just continue until I started to run low, go up and do my decompression, then surface. I'd been planning my own dives for years and I could handle the situation. I *assumed* the reason they asked people to surface at 10 minutes or stay with the group was they thought we couldn't figure out our own decompression or would be afraid to do it alone. I could have asked, but that might have made me look foolish. So, I kept my mouth shut and didn't advise him of my low air supply. No need to worry him and especially not to let him think *I* was worried.

On the dive I found I had to swim hard to keep up with the group. With my inexperience in this type of diving I hadn't yet learned to rise off the bottom to ride the faster current to catch up. At 140 feet the density of the air was making it a lot of work just to suck air out of my regulator and I was breathing pretty hard. Nevertheless, at 10 minutes I had, well *almost* had, 1,000 psi. I decided to stay a couple of more minutes to try and get some photographs, then head up to 10 feet and do a few minutes of decompression under the red surface float.

By this time I was getting cold. In no time I was down to 800 psi and I went over to signal the divemaster I was going up. He shook his head, pointed to his watch and held up first one finger, then two fingers. I *assumed* he was



Eager to photograph sharks and not look foolish, the author didn't ask questions.

trying to tell me that we would be going up in one or two minutes. I thought of asking him to write out his message on my handy slate and I thought of showing him my gauge, but I decided to just act cool and wait for him to bring the group up. I realized, though, that every minute I stayed down I was not only using more air, but also adding to the time I would have to decompress.

I tried to stay above the group, but now I discovered the layered current effect—to avoid flying past everyone else I had to stay at the same depth. My air dropped to 600 psi then 400. Now I was at a critical juncture. I wasn't sure I had enough air left to do my decompression. If I went up alone there would be no octopus for me to grab if I ran out. The other choice was to stay down until someone else came up with me. I swam to the divemaster's side, picked up his octopus and shoved it in my mouth, still trying to look cool and collected.

When I checked my new host's air supply, I flipped. I had *assumed* he would have plenty. After all, that's what he was there for, right? Nope, he had the same steel 72 tank as everyone else and he was down to 700 psi. We were still at 140 feet and there was no way there was enough air for both of us. I knew what was happening as his regulator began to screech, my lungs screamed for air and my head grew dizzy. I'd seen divers panic before and it was not a pretty sight. I lowered my head so no one would see my eyes force the faceplate off my mask.

"Breathe slowly!" I told my body. "No way!" my body answered back. "You just condemned me to spend the next 50 years in a wheelchair. I'm not taking orders from you anymore!" The divemaster's gauge was dropping like a barometer in front of a hurricane. We had already passed the 20 minute mark and still he was rising so slowly that I knew we would never reach the surface. At 120 feet he was down to 400 psi and at the rate I was breathing I would empty that tank and convert the air into crippling nitrogen bubbles in about five more breaths.

Suddenly my savior appeared. The owner of the operation must have been alerted by the clouds of bubbles and swam over with octopus outstretched. This woman was well known for her ability to spend long periods of time underwater without any appreciable consumption of compressed air. True to form, she still had more than one-half a tank of air left. My breathing rate slowed as we ascended to the 10 foot decompression stop. After more than 20 long minutes at this depth we surfaced and I reveled in the smell of fresh air and the ability to move my arms and legs.

On the boat I asked the divemaster why he hadn't let me surface when I first indicated that intent to him and why he kept us down so long after telling me that we would go up in "one or two minutes."

"I didn't mean you couldn't go up," he said, "I was just telling you that you had to decompress at 10 feet (one finger) for 20 minutes (two fingers)." He also explained why divers were asked to surface at 10 minutes if they weren't prepared to stay the whole dive: The faster current at the surface makes it almost impossible to stay above the divers on the bottom, so any diver decompressing by himself is swept away from the group—and away from the float—and may miss being picked up by the boat.

So, I had learned something, although I reflected on how much more useful that knowledge would have been if I had obtained it before the dive. I had also learned some lessons about pride and humility; about the importance of a thorough orientation when diving outside your home turf; and about dive planning and the importance of all those little rules they teach you, such as having extra tanks for decompression. The most important lesson was so simple it should have come as a matter of common sense, rather than being learned at the expense of a near loss of life: "If you don't know, *ask*!"

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